

Waiting your turn:



Wait times for health care in Canada, 2014 Report

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Summary

Waiting for treatment has become a defining characteristic of Canadian Healthcare. In order to document the lengthy queues for visits to specialists and for diagnostic and surgical procedures in the country, the Fraser Institute has—for over two decades—surveyed specialist physicians across 12 specialties and 10 provinces.

This edition of *Waiting Your Turn* indicates that, overall, waiting times for medically necessary treatment have not improved since last year. Specialist physicians surveyed report a median waiting time of 18.2 weeks between referral from a general practitioner and receipt of treatment. This wait time is 96% longer than in 1993 when it was just 9.3 weeks.

There is a great deal of variation in the total waiting time faced by patients across the provinces. Ontario reports the shortest total wait (14.1 weeks), while New Brunswick reports the longest (37.3 weeks).

The same is true of variation among specialties. Patients wait longest between a GP referral and orthopaedic surgery (42.2 weeks), while those waiting for medical oncology begin treatment in 3.3 weeks.

The total wait time that patients face can be examined in two consecutive segments.

- 1** The first segment occurs from referral by a general practitioner to consultation with a specialist. The waiting time in this segment has fallen from 8.6 weeks in 2013 to 8.5 weeks in 2014. This wait time is 129% longer than in 1993, when it was 3.7 weeks. The shortest waits for specialist consultations are in Manitoba (6.4 weeks), while the longest occur in New Brunswick (26.4 weeks).
- 2** The second segment occurs from the consultation with a specialist to the point at which the patient receives treatment. The waiting time in this segment has risen from 9.6 weeks in 2013 to 9.8 weeks in 2014. This wait time is 74% longer than in 1993 when it was 5.6 weeks, and more than 3 weeks longer than what physicians consider to be clinically “reasonable”. The shortest specialist-to-treatment waits are found in Saskatchewan (7.0), while the longest such waits exist in Prince Edward Island (17.6 weeks).

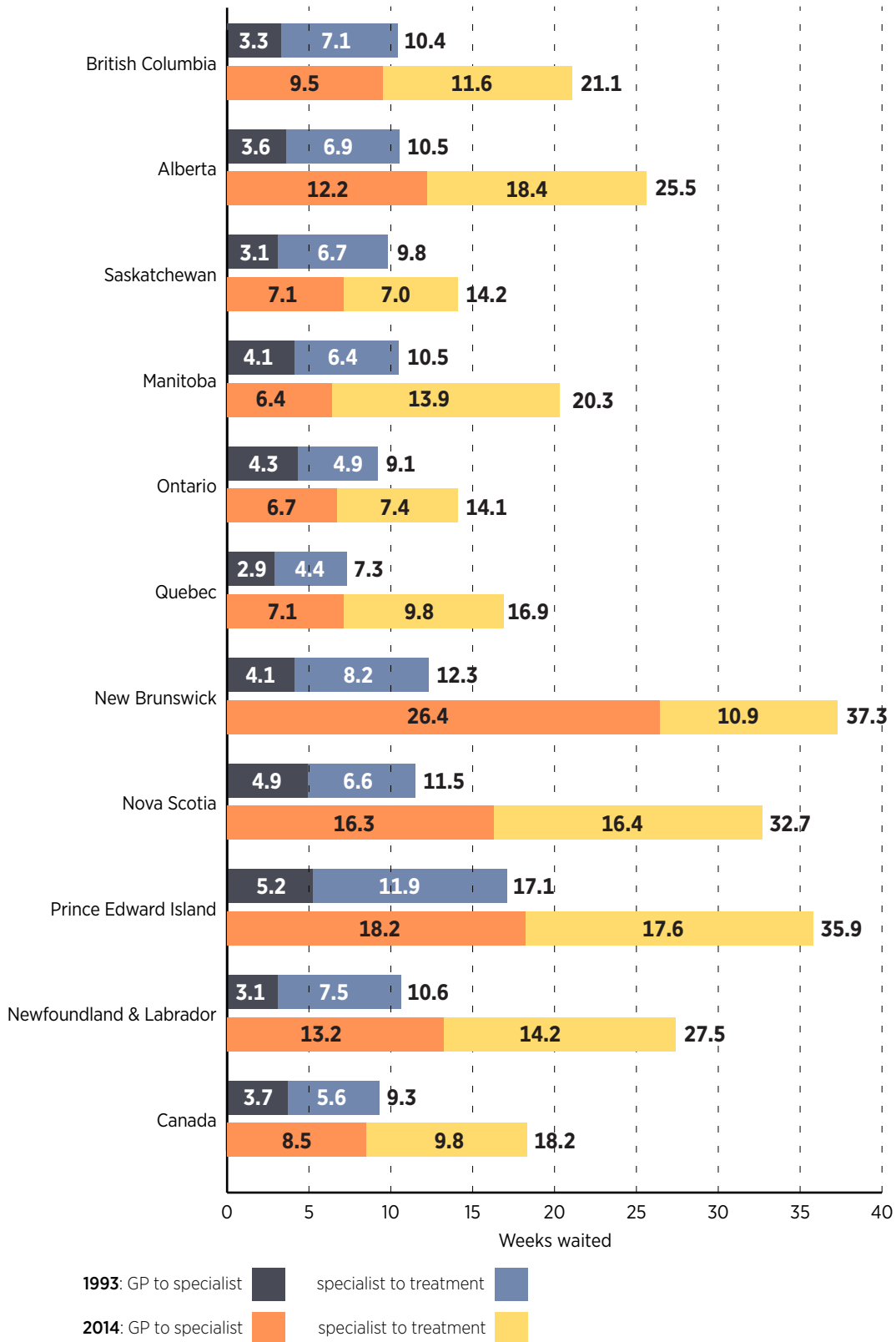
It is estimated that, across the 10 provinces, the total number of procedures for which people are waiting in 2014 is 937,345—9,225 more than in 2013. This means that, assuming that each person waits for only one procedure, 2.7% of Canadians are waiting for treatment in 2014. The proportion of the population waiting for treatment varies from a low of 2.1% in Ontario to a high of 5.3% in Nova Scotia. Importantly, physicians report that only about 10.4% of their patients are on a waiting list because they requested a delay or postponement.

Patients also experience significant waiting times for various diagnostic technologies across the provinces. This year, Canadians could expect to wait 3.8 weeks for a computed tomography (CT) scan, 8.7 weeks for a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan, and 3.3 weeks for an ultrasound.

Research has repeatedly indicated that wait times for medically necessary treatment are not benign inconveniences. Wait times can, and do, have serious consequences such as increased pain, suffering, and mental anguish. In certain instances, they can also result in poorer medical outcomes—transforming potentially reversible illnesses or injuries into chronic, irreversible conditions, or even permanent disabilities. In many instances, patients may also have to forgo their wages while they wait for treatment, resulting in an economic cost to the individuals themselves and the economy in general.

The results of this year's survey indicate that despite provincial strategies to reduce wait times and high levels of health expenditure, it is clear that patients in Canada continue to wait too long to receive medically necessary treatment.

Median wait from referral by GP and treatment, by province, 1993 and 2014



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2014; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

This publication has four series of illustrations and tabular material.

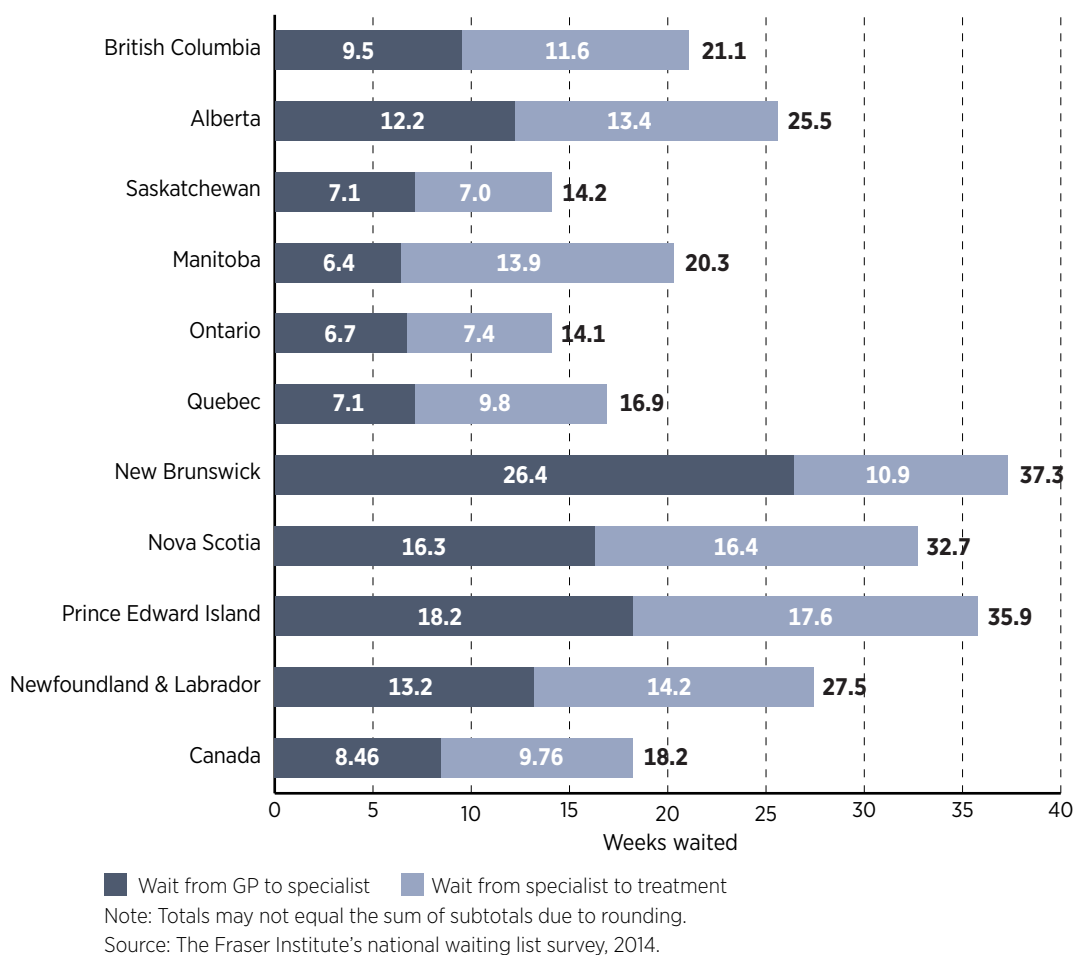
- Charts, which may be graphs or tables, will be found in the main text, pp. 1–31.
- Graphs will be found in “Selected graphs”, pp. 33–47.
- Tables will be found in “Selected tables”, pp. 48–81.
- “Appendix B: Psychiatry Waiting List Survey, 2014 Report”, pp. 84–91, has tables and a graph labeled “1B” and so on.

Findings

Total wait times

The Fraser Institute's twenty-fourth annual waiting list survey finds that wait times¹ for surgical and other therapeutic treatments have not improved since last year. The total waiting time between referral from a general practitioner and delivery of medically necessary elective treatment by a specialist, averaged across all 12 specialties and 10 provinces surveyed, is 18.2 weeks in 2014, the same as in 2013. Compared to 1993, the total waiting time in 2014 is 96% longer. But, lack of change in wait times nationwide conceals increases in six provinces and decreases in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Quebec, and Prince Edward Island ([table 2](#); [chart 1](#)).

Chart 1: Median wait by province in 2014—weeks waited from referral by GP to treatment



1. For an explanation of how *Waiting Your Turn* measures wait times, see the “Method” section.

Ontario reports the shortest total wait in 2014 (14.1 weeks), followed by Saskatchewan (14.2 weeks), and Quebec (16.9 weeks). New Brunswick has the longest total wait at 37.3 weeks, followed by Prince Edward Island (35.9 weeks), and Nova Scotia (32.7 weeks).

Wait time by segment

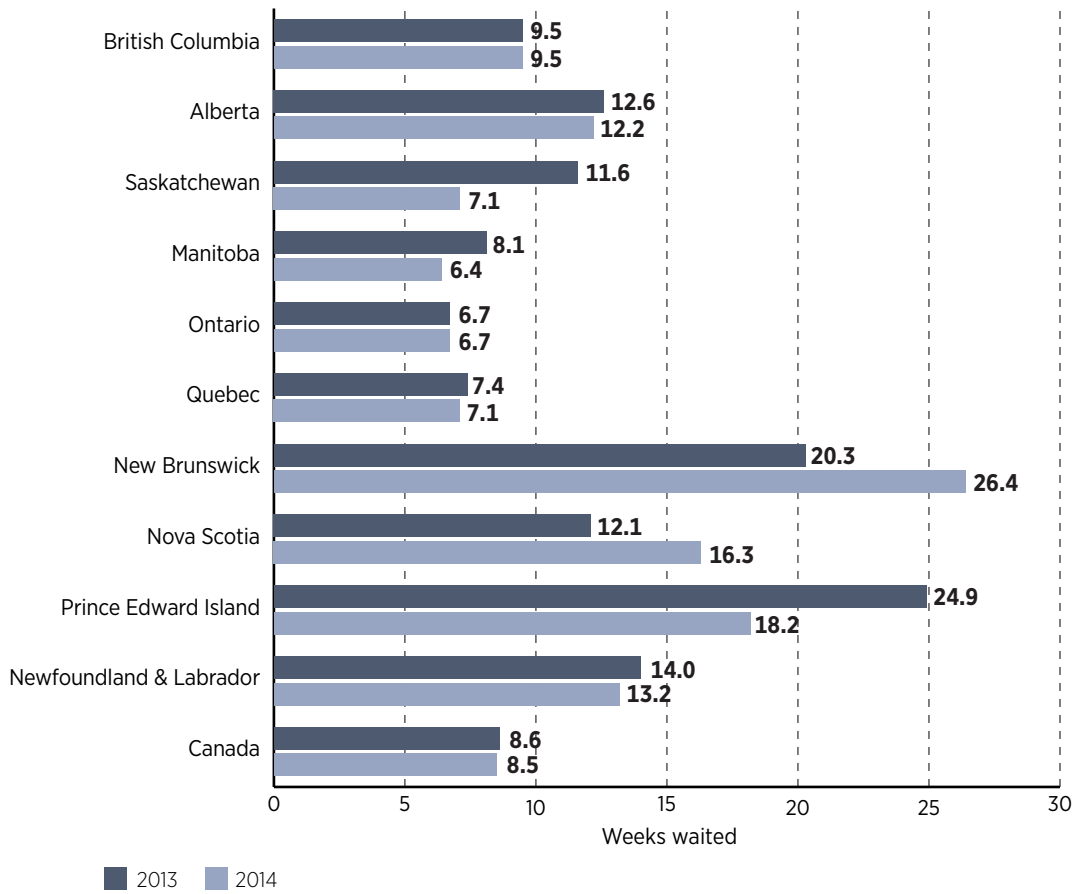
Total wait time can be examined in two consecutive segments:

- 1 the first segment occurs from referral by a general practitioner to consultation with a specialist;
- 2 the second segment occurs from the consultation with a specialist to the point at which the patient receives treatment.

Total waiting time did not change from 2013 to 2014 because there was a decrease in the first segment and an increase in the second.

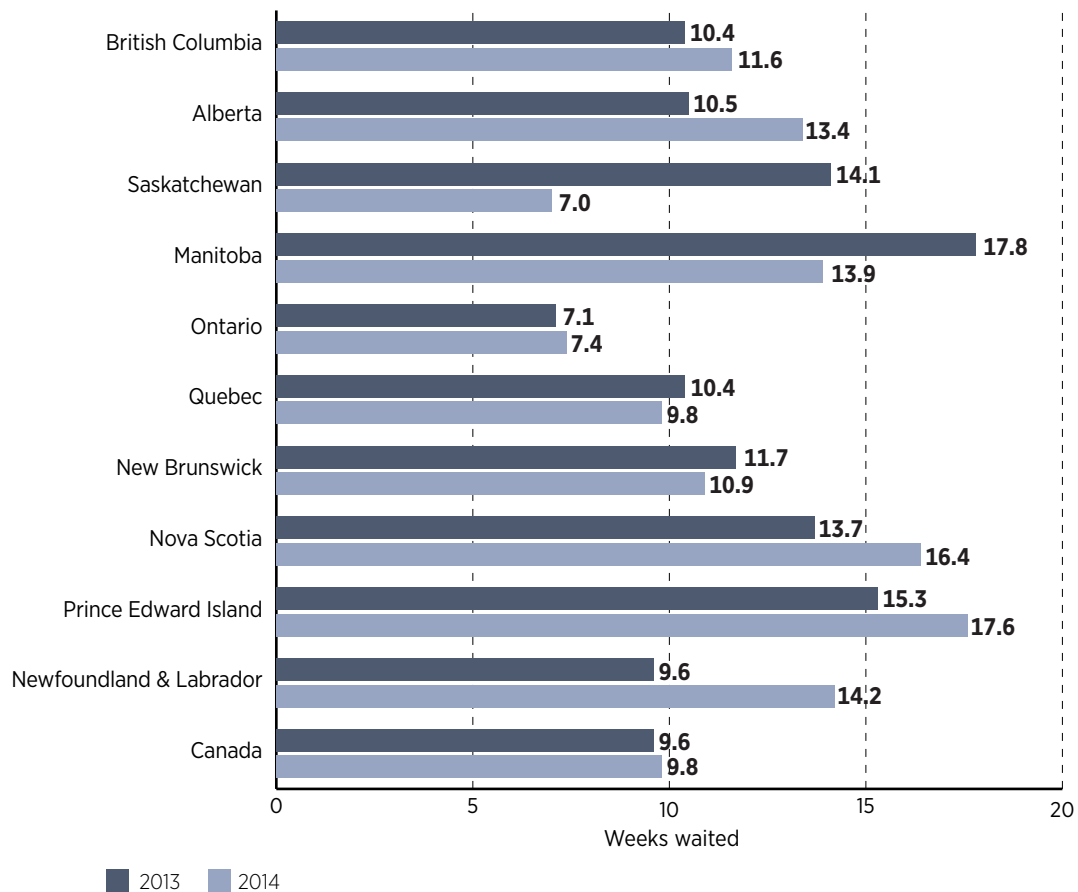
The waiting time in the first segment, from referral by a general practitioner to consultation with a specialist, has fallen from 8.6 weeks in 2013 to 8.5 weeks in 2014. This wait time is 129% longer than in 1993, when it was 3.7 weeks ([graph 1](#); [graph 2](#)). The waiting time to see a specialist has decreased in six provinces since 2013, remained the same in British Columbia and Ontario, and risen in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia ([chart 2](#)). The shortest waits for specialist consultations are in Manitoba (6.4 weeks), Ontario (6.7 weeks), and Quebec (7.1 weeks). The longest waits for specialist consultations occur in New Brunswick (26.4 weeks), Prince Edward Island (18.2 weeks), and Nova Scotia (16.3 weeks) (see [table 3](#)).

Chart 2: Wait by province in 2013 and 2014—weeks waited from referral by GP to appointment with specialist



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2014.

Chart 3: Wait by province in 2013 and 2014—weeks waited from appointment with specialist to treatment



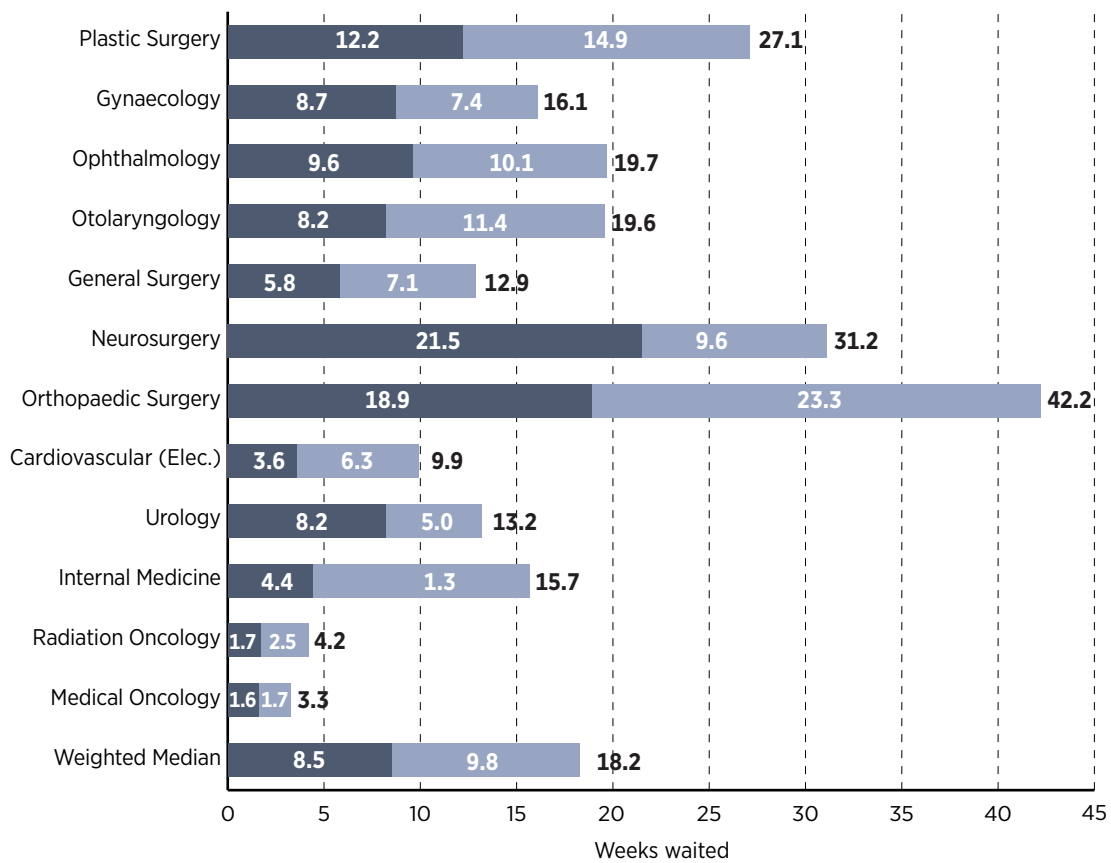
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2014.

The waiting time in the second segment, from consultation with a specialist to the point at which the patient receives treatment, has risen from 9.6 weeks in 2013 to 9.8 weeks in 2014 ([chart 3](#)). This portion of waiting is 74% longer than in 1993 when it was 5.6 weeks ([graph 3](#); [graph 4](#)). Waiting times from specialist consultation to treatment have increased in six provinces, but decreased in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Quebec, and New Brunswick. The shortest specialist-to-treatment waits are found in Saskatchewan (7.0), Ontario (7.4 weeks), and Quebec (9.8 weeks), while the longest such waits exist in Prince Edward Island (17.6 weeks), Nova Scotia (16.4 weeks), and Newfoundland & Labrador (14.2 weeks) ([table 4](#)).

Waiting by specialty

Among the various specialties, the shortest total waits exist for medical oncology (3.3 weeks), radiation oncology (4.2 weeks), and elective cardiovascular surgery (9.9 weeks). Conversely, patients wait longest between a GP referral and orthopaedic

Chart 4: Median wait by specialty in 2014—weeks waited from referral by GP to treatment



■ Wait from GP to specialist ■ Wait from specialist to treatment

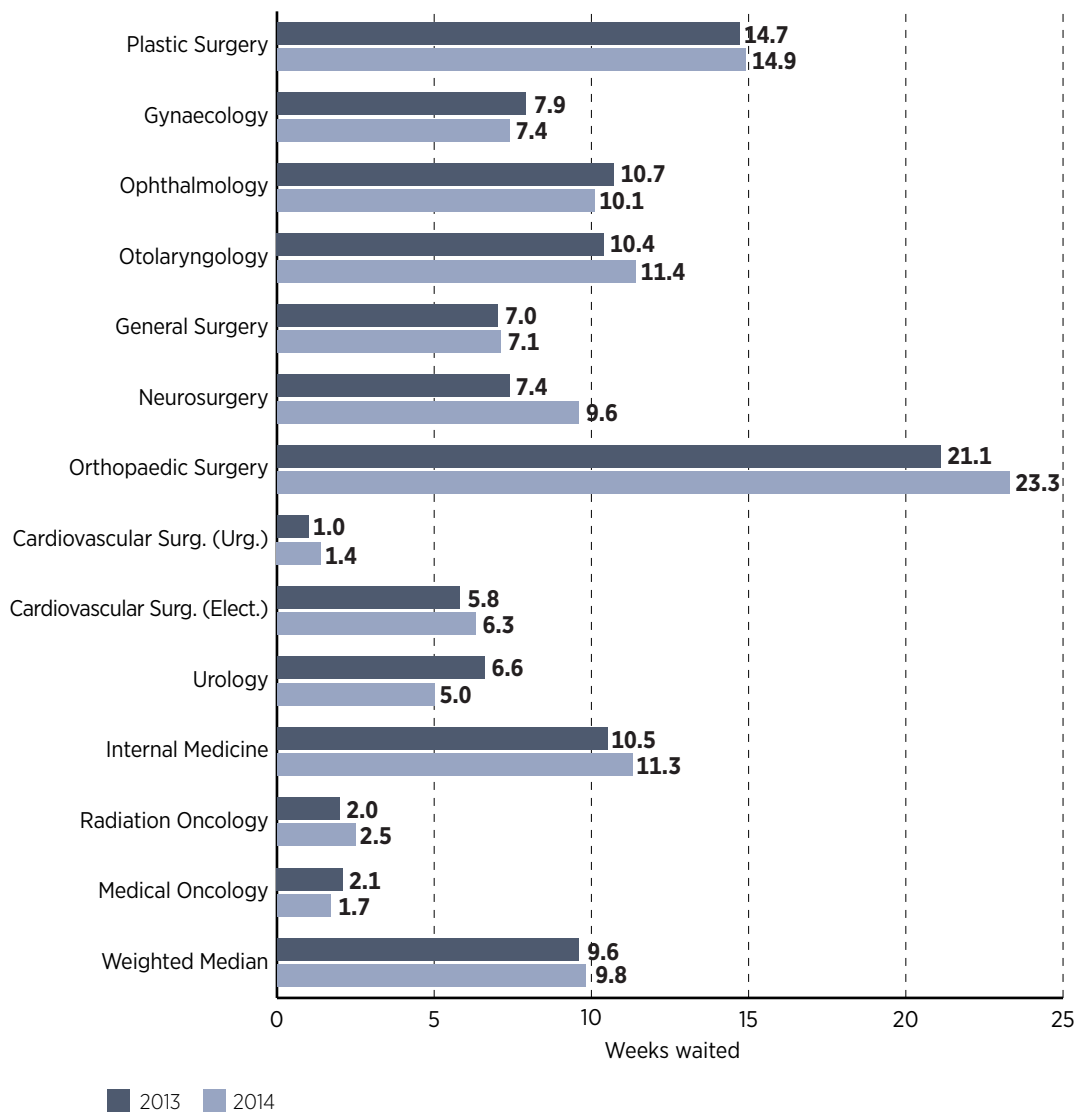
Note: Totals may not equal the sum of subtotals due to rounding.

Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2014.

surgery (42.2 weeks), neurosurgery (31.2 weeks), and plastic surgery (27.1 weeks) (table 2; chart 4). The largest increases in waits between 2013 and 2014 have been for neurosurgery (6.4 weeks), orthopaedic surgery (2.6 weeks), and otolaryngology (1.4 weeks). Such increases are offset by decreases in wait times for patients receiving treatment in the fields like urology (−3.1 weeks), gynaecology (−1.1 weeks) and medical oncology (−1.0 weeks).

Breaking waiting time down into its two components, there is also variation among specialties. With regard to the first segment, the shortest waits are in medical oncology (1.6 weeks), radiation oncology (1.7 weeks), and cardiovascular surgery (3.6 weeks). Meanwhile, the longest waits are for neurosurgery (21.5 weeks), orthopaedic surgery (18.9 weeks), and plastic surgery (12.2 weeks) (table 3).

Chart 5: Wait by specialty in 2013 and 2014—weeks waited from appointment with specialist to treatment



For the second segment, patients wait the shortest intervals for urgent cardiovascular surgery (1.4 weeks), medical oncology (1.7 weeks), and radiation oncology (2.5 weeks). They wait longest for orthopaedic surgery (23.3 weeks), plastic surgery (14.9 weeks), and otolaryngology (11.4 weeks) (table 4; chart 5). Median wait times for specific procedures within a specialty, by province, are shown in tables 5A–5L.

Comparison between clinically “reasonable” and actual waiting times

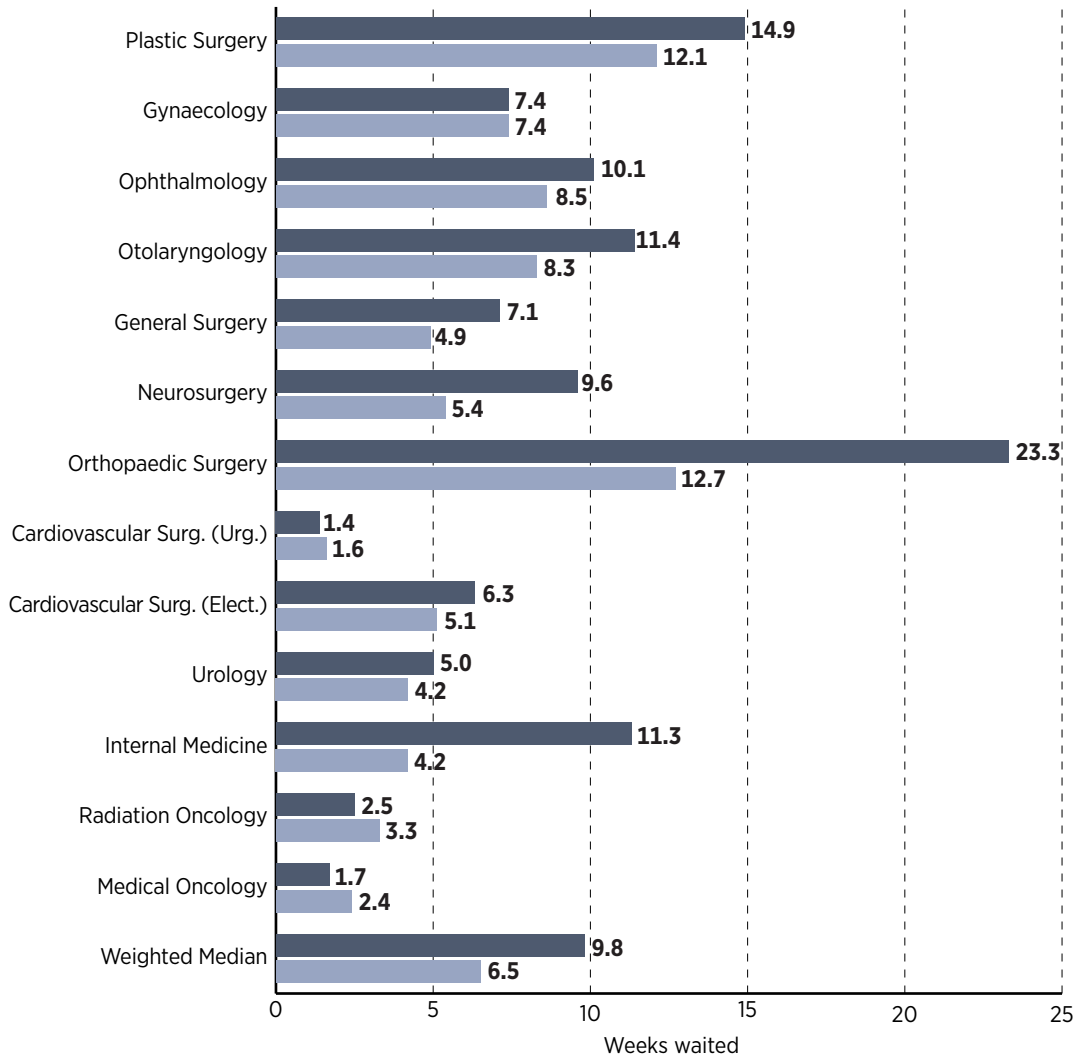
Specialists are also surveyed as to what they regard as clinically “reasonable” waiting times in the second segment covering the time spent from specialist consultation to delivery of treatment. Out of the 102 categories (some comparisons were precluded by missing data), actual waiting time ([table 4](#)) exceeds reasonable waiting time ([table 8](#)) in 68% of the comparisons. Averaged across all specialties, Saskatchewan and Prince Edward Island have come closest to meeting the standard of “reasonable” wait times. Their actual second segment waits only exceed the corresponding “reasonable” values by 13% and 24%, respectively, which are smaller gaps than in the other provinces ([table 10](#)). These two provinces, however, achieve their performance by different means: the “reasonable” wait time in Prince Edward Island is the longest in Canada at 14.2 weeks, while the “reasonable” wait time in Saskatchewan is the second shortest in Canada at 6.2 weeks (only Ontario reported a shorter “reasonable” wait time). Physicians in Quebec and British Columbia also hold relatively more stringent standards as to what is “reasonable”. The greatest difference between these two values across all provinces for a specialty is in orthopaedic surgery, where the actual waiting time is about 10.7 weeks longer than what is considered to be “reasonable” by specialists ([chart 6](#)).² Median reasonable wait times for specific procedures within a specialty, by province, are shown in [tables 9A-9L](#).

Waiting for diagnostic and therapeutic technology

Patients also experience significant waiting times for various diagnostic technologies across the provinces. The wait for a computed tomography (CT) scan has increased to 3.8 weeks in 2014 from 3.6 weeks in 2013. Ontario has the shortest wait for a CT scan (3.0 weeks), while the longest wait occurs in Prince Edward Island (6.0 weeks). The wait for a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan has increased to 8.7 weeks in 2014 from 8.3 weeks in 2013. Patients in Ontario experience the shortest wait for an MRI (5.0 weeks), while residents of British Columbia wait longest (20.0 weeks). Finally, the wait for an ultrasound has fallen to 3.3 weeks from 3.8 weeks in 2013. Alberta and Ontario have the shortest wait for an ultrasound (2.0 weeks), while Newfoundland & Labrador has the longest ultrasound waiting time: 6.0 weeks ([chart 7](#)).

2. The greatest proportional difference for a specialty is in Internal Medicine, where the actual waiting time exceeds the corresponding reasonable value by 167%.

Chart 6: Median actual wait compared to median clinically reasonable wait by specialty in Canada in 2014—weeks waited from appointment with specialist to treatment



■ Median actual wait ■ Median clinically reasonable wait
 Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2014.

Chart 7: Waiting for technology: weeks waited to receive selected diagnostic tests in 2012, 2013, and 2014

	CT-Scan			MRI			Ultrasound		
	2014	2013	2012	2014	2013	2012	2014	2013	2012
British Columbia	5.0	4.0	4.0	20.0	16.0	12.0	5.0	4.0	4.0
Alberta	4.0	4.0	4.0	12.0	8.0	8.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Saskatchewan	4.0	3.0	4.0	6.0	8.0	10.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Manitoba	4.0	4.0	4.0	6.0	8.0	8.0	4.0	5.0	4.8
Ontario	3.0	3.0	3.0	5.0	5.0	6.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Quebec	4.0	4.0	4.0	8.0	9.0	9.5	4.0	6.5	6.0
New Brunswick	4.0	4.0	4.0	10.0	8.0	8.0	5.5	5.5	8.0
Nova Scotia	4.0	4.0	4.0	10.0	10.0	12.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Prince Edward Island	6.0	3.5	8.0	16.0	13.0	16.0	4.0	6.0	6.5
Newfoundland & Labrador	4.0	5.3	5.0	6.0	10.0	11.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Canada	3.8	3.6	3.7	8.7	8.3	8.4	3.3	3.8	3.7

Note: Links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A

Numbers of procedures for which people are waiting

This study estimates that across the 10 provinces, the total number of procedures for which people are waiting in 2014 is 937,345 (table 12; table 14 presents the numbers for the provinces on a population-adjusted basis), an increase of about 1.0% from the estimated 928,120 procedures in 2013. The estimated number of procedures for which people are waiting has increased in six provinces, but has fallen in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Quebec and New Brunswick. Assuming that each person waits for only one procedure, 2.7% of Canadians are waiting for treatment in 2014, which varies from a low of 2.1% in Ontario to a high of 5.3% in Nova Scotia.³ Tables 13A to 13L (pp. 70–75) show the number of procedures for which people are waiting within a specialty, by province.

3. These numbers should be interpreted with caution, especially for Saskatchewan. As a result of discussions with provincial authorities in 2002, counts of “the number of patients waiting for surgery” have been replaced with the “number of procedures for which patients are waiting”. There do not, however, appear to be significant systematic differences between the numbers of “procedures for which people are waiting” estimated in this edition of *Waiting Your Turn* and counts of “patients waiting” reported by provincial ministries.

Method

This study replicates methods used in previous editions. The data for this issue of *Waiting Your Turn* were collected between January 10 and April 30, 2014. Survey questionnaires⁴ were sent to practitioners in 12 medical specialties: plastic surgery, gynaecology, ophthalmology, otolaryngology, general surgery, neurosurgery, orthopaedic surgery, cardiovascular surgery, urology, internal medicine, radiation oncology, and medical oncology. This year, the overall response rate was 19% ([table 1](#)). The major findings from the survey responses are summarized in [table 2](#) to [table 15](#).

This study is designed to estimate the wait for medically necessary elective treatment.⁵ Waiting time is calculated as the median of physician responses. The median is calculated by ranking specialists' responses in either ascending or descending order, and determining the middle value.⁶

The provincial weighted medians, for each specialty, reported in the last line of [table 5A](#) to [table 5L](#), are calculated by multiplying the median wait for each procedure (e.g., mammoplasty, neurolysis, etc., for plastic surgery) by a weight—the fraction of all surgeries within that specialty constituted by that procedure. The sum of these multiplied terms forms the weighted median for that province and specialty (an analogous method is used for [table 9A](#) to [table 9L](#)).

To obtain the provincial medians (displayed in the last row of tables 2, 3, 4, and 8), the twelve specialty medians are each weighted by a ratio—the number of procedures done in that specialty in the province, divided by the total number of procedures done by specialists of all types in the province. To obtain the national medians (displayed in the last

4. The Cornerstone Group of Companies provided mailing lists, drawn from the Canadian Medical Association's membership rolls. Specialists were offered a chance to win one of two iPads or one of two \$500 cash prizes (to be randomly awarded) as an inducement to respond. Physicians were contacted via letter-mail, facsimile, and telephone.

5. Emergent, urgent, and elective wait times are measured for cardiovascular surgery. The specialties of Internal Medicine, Medical Oncology, Neurosurgery, and Radiation Oncology also include non-elective wait times.

6. For an even-numbered group of respondents, the median is the average of the two middle values.

column of tables 2, 3, 4, and 8) we use a similar ratio—the number of procedures done in that specialty in the province, divided by the total number of procedures done by specialists in that specialty across all provinces.

To estimate the number of procedures for which people are waiting, the total annual number of procedures is divided by 52 (weeks per year) and then multiplied by the Fraser Institute’s estimate of the actual provincial average number of weeks waited. This means that a waiting period of one month implies that, on average, patients are waiting one-twelfth of a year for surgery. Therefore, the next person added to the list would find one-twelfth of a year’s patients ahead of him or her in the queue. The main assumption underlying this estimate is that the number of surgeries performed will neither increase nor decrease within the year in response to waiting lists.

The number of non-emergency procedures for which people are waiting that were not included in the survey is also calculated, and is listed in [table 12](#) as the “residual” number of procedures for which people are waiting. To estimate this residual number, the number of non-emergency operations not contained in the survey that are done in each province annually must be used. This residual number of operations (compiled from the CIHI data) is then divided by 52 (weeks) and multiplied by each province’s weighted median waiting time for all specialties.

This study’s weighting of medians and the estimation of the number of procedures for which patients are waiting are based on data for 2012/13 from the Discharge Abstract Database (DAD) (CIHI, 2013a) and National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS) (CIHI, 2013b), published by the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI). Data from Quebec was not available this year. As a result, the authors have made a pro-rated estimate of surgeries in Quebec using the number of acute surgeries performed in the province in 2011/12.

There are a number of minor problems in matching the CIHI’s categories of operations to those reported in the Fraser Institute survey. In a few instances, an operation such as rhinoplasty is listed under more than one specialty in *Waiting Your Turn*. In these cases, we divide the number of patients annually undergoing this type of operation among specialties according to the proportion of specialists in each of the overlapping specialties: for example, if plastic surgeons constitute 75% of the group of specialists performing rhinoplasties, then the number of rhinoplasties counted under plastic surgery is the total multiplied by 0.75. A second problem is that, in some cases, an operation

listed in the *Waiting Your Turn* questionnaire has no direct match in the CIHI tabulation. An example is ophthalmologic surgery for glaucoma, which is not categorized separately in the CIHI discharge abstract data. In these cases, we make no estimate of the number of patients waiting for these operations.

Finally, the Fraser Institute's cardiovascular surgery questionnaire, following the traditional classification by which patients are prioritized, has distinguished among emergent, urgent, and elective patients. However, in discussing the situation with physicians and hospital administrators, it became clear that these classifications are not standardized across provinces. Decisions as to how to group patients were thus left to responding physicians and heart centres. Direct comparisons among provinces using these categories should, therefore, be made tentatively.

Verification of Data

Verification of current data with governments

On October 15, 2014, we sent preliminary data to provincial ministries of health, and to provincial cancer and cardiac agencies. As of November 19, 2014, we have received replies from provincial health ministries in British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, as well as from Cancer Care Ontario. A list of links to wait-times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A.

Many provinces measure the waiting time as the time between the date on which a treatment was scheduled (or booked) and the date of the treatment. The Fraser Institute intends to assist those seeking treatment, and those evaluating waiting times, by providing comprehensive data on the entire wait a person seeking treatment can expect. Accordingly, the Institute measures the time between the decision of the specialist that treatment is required and treatment being received as well as the time between general practitioner referral and consultation with a specialist.

Alberta

The Alberta *Wait Times Reporting* web site defines a wait time as “the time between the decision date (when a patient and specialist decide that a service is required) and the date the procedure or test is performed” and is calculated using “data from people served in the three months prior to the report date” (Alberta Health and Wellness, 2014b). This calculation “excludes people who voluntarily delayed their procedure or test, had a scheduled follow-up, or those who received emergency care” (Alberta Health and Wellness, 2014b). The Fraser Institute reports prospective median waiting times for elective procedures from the specialist’s decision to treat the patient.

There is a substantial difference between the measurement of prospective waiting times (the expected waiting time for the next patient) and retrospective waiting times (the amount of time the patient actually waited for surgery). Notably, the latter measure includes any adjustments in waiting times that were the result of a deterioration in the patient’s condition (other than those that resulted in emergency care) or from adjustments that resulted from other factors (emergency cases using up operating room time, an earlier operating slot becoming available, and so on).

Despite these differences in methodology, it appears that the prospective elective wait times from the Fraser Institute’s waiting list survey are in many cases broadly similar to the retrospective elective waiting times presented on the *Alberta Wait Times Reporting* web site ([chart 8](#)). While, the Institute’s measurements are notably longer than those compiled by Alberta Health and Wellness for some treatments like “Varicose Vein (leg)” surgery, “Interventions on the Brain and Spinal Cord”, and “Tonsillectomy”, they are either similar, or shorter in several cases.

Chart 8: Comparison of Waiting Times in Alberta, Specialist to Treatment, 2014

Specialty/Procedure	AB Health Median Wait Time (1)	Fraser Institute Median Wait (2)	Specialty/Procedure (Fraser Institute)
Cataract surgery, first eye only	14	12	Cataract Removal
Interventions on the eyelid	11	6	Operations on Eyelids
Tonsillectomy	13	19	Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy
Mastectomy: Removal of the breast	3	3	Mastectomy
Gall bladder removal	9	10.5	Cholecystectomy
Hernia repair	12	22	Hernia/Hydrocele (General Surgery)
		15	Hernia/Hydrocele (Urology)
Interventions on the Large Intestine	10		
Interventions on the Small Intestine	8	8	Intestinal Operations
Varicose vein (leg) surgery	5	25	Varicose Veins
Hysterectomy	11	8	Hysterectomy (Vaginal/Abdominal)
Tubal ligation	8	8	Tubal Ligation
Interventions on the Brain and Spinal Cord	8	14	Neurosurgery
Head, Nasal Cavity and Sinuses	11	13.5	Operations on Nasal Sinuses
Implantation of pacemaker and other devices, Urgent	1		
Implantation of pacemaker and other devices, Semi-Urgent	4	2	Pacemaker Operations (Urgent)
Implantation of pacemaker and other devices, Non-Urgent	3	5	Pacemaker Operations (Elective)
Referral to First Consult (Radiation Oncologist)	1.9	2	Specialist after Referral from a GP
Ready-To-Treat to First Radiation Therapy (Radiation Oncologist)	1	3.5	Treatment after Appointment with Specialist
Referral to First Consult (Medical Oncologist)	2	2.1	Specialist after Referral from a GP

(1) 50th percentile wait time (weeks). Measured from time between when a patient and [specialist] decide that a procedure or diagnostic test is required and the date the procedure or test is performed. Wait times are for elective conditions, defined as Urgency III by Alberta Health and Wellness (unless specified otherwise). Data are presented for April 2014.

(2) Prospective Median Wait (weeks) for treatment after appointment with a specialist, National Waiting List Survey, 2014

Sources: Alberta Health and Wellness, 2014a; and the Fraser Institute’s waiting list survey.

British Columbia

British Columbia's Ministry of Health provided the Fraser Institute with their data on the median wait time to see a specialist after referral for the month of July 2014 (extracted on August 24, 2014). This calculation is measured "from the time the referral is received to the date the first consultation with the specialist occurs" (British Columbia Ministry of Health, personal communication, 2014). By comparison, the Fraser Institute reports prospective median waiting times for new patients seeking a "routine office consultation". **Chart 9** presents the data provided by British Columbia's Ministry of Health, along with the Fraser Institute's wait time measurements.

Chart 9: Comparison of Reported Waiting Times in British Columbia, Referral to Specialist

	BC Health Median Wait (1)	Sample Size	Fraser Institute Median Wait
Plastic Surgery	3.4	845	12.0
Gynaecology	3.7	2,398	7.0
Ophthalmology	3.7	4,834	8.0
Otolaryngology	5.6	1,495	6.5
General Surgery	3.0	3,821	7.0
Neurosurgery	6.1	480	16.0
Orthopaedic Surgery	7.0	3,575	30.0
Cardiovascular Surgery	—	—	7.0
Urology	3.0	2,180	8.0
Internal Medicine	—	—	4.0
Radiation Oncology	—	—	4.5
Medical Oncology	—	—	2.3
Weighted Median	3.9	—	9.5

(1) Extracted on August 14, 2014, for the month of July, 2014.

Sources: British Columbia Ministry of Health, personal communication, 2014; and The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2014

In addition, it is also possible to compare publically available data from the website⁷ of British Columbia's Ministry of Health for the median wait time for treatment after an appointment with a specialist. The Ministry of Health defines waiting time in such a way that its estimates are shorter than those in this survey. Specifically, the ministry

7. British Columbia's Ministry of Health provided the Fraser Institute with their data on the median wait time for treatment after an appointment with a specialist (for eight specialties) based on cases completed between April 1, 2013 and September 30, 2014. For the purposes of consistency and comparison, data from the British Columbia Ministry of Health's website is used in this section.

defines a wait for adult elective-surgery as the interval beginning “when the operating room booking information for a case is received by the hospital” and ending “when either the surgery is performed; or, the case is removed from the wait list for reasons determined by the surgeon and the patient” (British Columbia Ministry of Health, 2014b). This definition may understate the patient’s actual waiting time between seeing a specialist and receiving treatment because it will not include any delays between the decision to treat the patient and the formal booking/recording for that patient. In addition, because some hospitals may only book a few months ahead, this method of measuring waiting lists likely omits a substantial fraction of patients with waits beyond the booking period (Ramsay, 1998).

These differences in methodology suggest that the wait times published on the BC Ministry of Health Services’ web site may be substantially shorter than those measured by the Fraser Institute. However, in years past, the ministry’s wait times have also been found to be remarkably low when compared to the number of procedures actually completed and the number of patients reported to be waiting for treatment.

Chart 10 and **Chart 11** show that the wait times recently presented on the ministry’s website continue to be potentially inaccurate. For example, the ministry reports a waiting time of 11.1 weeks for orthopaedic surgery for the three months ending April 30. The web site also shows 18,274 patients waiting for surgery at that time. In order for the waiting time for the next patient placed on the waiting list to be 11.1 weeks, the province would have to provide about 1,687 procedures per week, more than twice the number of surgeries delivered weekly during the 90 days prior to March 31 (**chart 9**).

Either there are fewer people waiting, significantly more surgeries being completed, or the government’s number of a wait of 11.1 weeks for orthopaedic surgery is incorrect. Specialty by specialty, month in and month out, the median wait figures reported by the ministry remain consistently, and surprisingly, lower than expected given the number of patients waiting and the number of procedures that can reasonably be expected to be performed per week. **Chart 10** provides information on the current number of patients waiting for surgery, the Fraser Institute’s estimates of the number of procedures for which patients are waiting, and the number of procedures completed in the 90 days preceding April 30, 2014. **Chart 11** shows the ministry’s published waiting times, the “expected” waiting time for the next patient placed on the waiting list using the number of patients waiting, and the number of procedures actually provided weekly, and the Fraser Institute’s median waiting time measurements.

Chart 10: Number of Patients Waiting for Care, British Columbia

Specialty/Procedure (BC Ministry of Health)	Patients Waiting (1)	Fraser Institute Estimate	Patients Served in Previous 90 days (2)	Procedures per week	Specialty/Procedure (Fraser Institute survey)
Plastic Surgery	3634	3278	2346	180	Plastic Surgery
<i>Breast Reconstruction</i>	454	1720	275	21	<i>Mammoplasty</i>
<i>Breast Reduction</i>	1113		408	31	
<i>Skin Surgery</i>	98	388	90	7	<i>Scar Revision</i>
<i>Skin Tumour Removal</i>	538	—	573	44	<i>Skin Cancers and other Tumors</i>
Gynaecology	5895	3379	6231	479	Gynaecology
<i>D&C and Related Surgery</i>	474	765	619	48	<i>Dilation & Curettage</i>
<i>Uterine Surgery</i>	2224	1116	2328	179	<i>Hysterectomy (Vaginal/Abdominal)</i>
		574			<i>Hysteroscopic Procedures</i>
<i>Fallopian Tube/Ovarian Surgery</i>	568	478	583	45	<i>Tubal Ligation</i>
<i>Vaginal Repair</i>	479	210	296	23	<i>Vaginal Repair</i>
<i>Laparoscopy</i>	302	208	331	25	<i>Laparoscopic Procedures</i>
Ophthalmology	17795	13709	12927	994	Ophthalmology
<i>Cataract Surgery</i>	16144	11352	11328	871	<i>Cataract Removal</i>
<i>Corneal Transplant</i>	435	363	135	10	<i>Cornea Transplant</i>
<i>Lens & Vitreous (non-cataract) Surgery</i>	774	758	728	56	<i>Retina, Choroid, Vitreous</i>
Otolaryngology	4655	5238	2632	202	Otolaryngology
<i>Tympanoplasty</i>	224	275	113	9	<i>Tympanoplasty</i>
<i>Thyroidectomy</i>	381	477	307	24	<i>Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands</i>
<i>Tonsillectomy</i>	481	1021	253	19	<i>Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy</i>
<i>Nasal Surgery</i>	1610	1448	770	59	<i>Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery (4)</i>
<i>Sinus Surgery</i>	962	1620	406	31	<i>Operations on Nasal Sinuses</i>
General Surgery	10793	12816	9477	729	General Surgery
<i>Breast Biopsy</i>	162	11	382	29	<i>Breast Biopsy</i>
<i>Hernia Repair - Abdominal</i>	4055	2363	2667	205	<i>Hernia/Hydrocele (5)</i>
<i>Hernia Repair - Hiatal</i>	169		37	3	
<i>Mastectomy</i>	428	331	1018	78	<i>Mastectomy</i>
<i>Cholecystectomy</i>	1576	957	1391	107	<i>Cholecystectomy</i>
<i>Varicose Veins Ligation and Stripping</i>	1426	154	398	31	<i>Varicose Veins</i>

Chart 10, continued: Number of Patients Waiting for Care, British Columbia

Specialty/Procedure (BC Ministry of Health)	Patients Waiting (1)	Fraser Institute Estimate	Patients Served in Previous 90 days (2)	Procedures per week	Specialty/Procedure (Fraser Institute survey)
Neurosurgery	1591	2453	1071	82	Neurosurgery
Orthopaedic Surgery	18274	27150	8719	671	Orthopaedic Surgery
<i>Knee Arthroscopy</i>	3167		1845	142	
<i>Foot/Ankle Surgery</i>	321	1699	138	11	<i>Menisectomy/Arthroscopy</i>
<i>Knee - ACL Repair</i>	705		436	34	
<i>Hip Replacement</i>	2908		1213	93	<i>Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)</i>
<i>Knee Replacement</i>	5288	17474	1651	127	
Thoracic Surgery	418		632	49	
Vascular Surgery	1804	312	967	74	Cardiovascular Surgery
<i>Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (Priority 2)</i>	23 (3a)		177 (3b)	14	
<i>Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (Priority 3)</i>	157 (3a)	94	270 (3b)	21	<i>Coronary Artery Bypass Graft</i>
<i>Aortic Aneurysm Repair</i>	58	3	104	8	<i>Aneurysm Surgery (6)</i>
<i>Endarterectomy</i>	162	15	159	12	<i>Carotid Endarterectomy (7)</i>
Urology	4290	4956	5228	402	Urology
		503			<i>Non-Radical Prostatectomy</i>
<i>Prostate Surgery</i>	1129	128	1284	99	<i>Radical Prostatectomy</i>
Radiotherapy	336 (3a)	66	2988 (3c)	230	<i>Radiation Oncology</i>

(1) Count as at April 30, 2014.

(2) Proximate period. Cases completed in 3 months prior to April 30, 2014.

(3a) Count as at March 31, 2014; (3b) Cases completed in the three months prior to March 31, 2014; (3c) Cases completed in the three months prior to Jan 31, 2014.

(4) The Fraser Institute measures the number of Rhinoplasty procedures for which patients are waiting in two surgical areas: Otolaryngology and Plastic Surgery. The number of procedures in Otolaryngology is presented here. The number of procedures in Plastic Surgery is 550.

(5) The Fraser Institute measures the number of Hernia/Hydrocele procedures for which patients are waiting in two surgical areas: General Surgery and Urology. The number of procedures in General Surgery is presented here. The number of procedures in Urology is 908.

(6) The Fraser Institute measures the number of Aneurysm procedures for which patients are waiting in three surgical areas: General Surgery, Neurosurgery, and Cardiovascular Surgery. The number of procedures for which patients are waiting in Cardiovascular Surgery are presented here. The number of procedures for which patients are waiting in Neurosurgery is 6.

(7) The Fraser Institute measure the number of Carotid Endarterectomy procedures for which people are waiting in two surgical areas: Neurosurgery and Cardiovascular Surgery. The number of procedures for which people are waiting in Cardiovascular Surgery are presented here. The number of procedures for which people are waiting in Neurosurgery is 12.

Sources: British Columbia Ministry of Health, 2014a; and The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2014

**Chart 11: Comparison of Reported Waiting Times in British Columbia,
Specialist to Treatment**

Specialty/Procedure (BC Ministry of Health)	BC Health Median Wait (1)	Implied 2014 Expected Wait (2)	Fraser Institute Median Wait (3)	Specialty/Procedure (Fraser Institute survey)
Plastic Surgery	6.3	20.1	21.1	Plastic Surgery
<i>Breast Reconstruction</i>	7.3	21.5	26.0	<i>Mammoplasty</i>
<i>Breast Reduction</i>	14.8	35.5		
<i>Skin Surgery</i>	3.2	14.2	15.0	<i>Scar Revision</i>
<i>Skin Tumour Removal</i>	3.4	12.2	4.0	<i>Skin Cancers and other Tumors</i>
Gynaecology Surgery	4.6	12.3	8.5	Gynaecology
<i>D&C and Related Surgery</i>	4.1	10.0	6.0	<i>Dilation & Curettage</i>
<i>Uterine Surgery</i>	4.7	12.4	12.0	<i>Hysterectomy (Vaginal/Abdominal)</i>
			6.0	<i>Hysteroscopic Procedures</i>
<i>Fallopian Tube/Ovarian Surgery</i>	5.0	12.7	12.0	<i>Tubal Ligation</i>
<i>Vaginal Repair</i>	9.7	21.0	12.0	<i>Vaginal Repair</i>
<i>Laparoscopy</i>	4.4	11.9	10.5	<i>Laparoscopic Procedures</i>
Ophthalmology	6.7	17.9	10.8	Ophthalmology
<i>Cataract Surgery</i>	7.1	18.5	12.0	<i>Cataract Removal</i>
<i>Cornea Transplant</i>	21.0	41.9	36.0	<i>Cornea Transplant</i>
<i>Lens & Vitreous (non-cataract) Surgery</i>	3.6	13.8	4.0	<i>Retina, Choroid, Vitreous</i>
Otolaryngology	8.0	23.0	18.8	Otolaryngology
<i>Tympanoplasty</i>	7.4	25.8	20.0	<i>Tympanoplasty</i>
<i>Thyroidectomy</i>	6.0	16.1	12.0	<i>Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands</i>
<i>Tonsillectomy/Adenoidectomy</i>	7.6	24.7	14.0	<i>Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy</i>
<i>Nasal Surgery</i>	10.0	27.2	52.0	<i>Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery (5)</i>
<i>Sinus Surgery</i>	13.4	30.7	20.0	<i>Operations on Nasal Sinuses</i>
General Surgery	4.3	14.8	7.0	General Surgery
<i>Breast Biopsy</i>	2.6	5.5	3.0	<i>Breast Biopsy</i>
<i>Hernia Repair - Abdominal</i>	8.4	19.8	12.0	<i>Hernia/Hydrocele (6)</i>
<i>Hernia Repair - Hiatal</i>	11.3	59.4		
<i>Mastectomy</i>	2.3	5.5	3.0	<i>Mastectomy</i>
<i>Cholecystectomy</i>	5.3	14.7	6.0	<i>Cholecystectomy</i>
<i>Varicose Vein Ligation and Stripping</i>	18.7	46.6	7.0	<i>Varicose Veins</i>
Neurosurgery	4.9	19.3	17.0	Neurosurgery

Chart 11, continued: Comparison of Reported Waiting Times in British Columbia, Specialist to Treatment

Specialty/Procedure (BC Ministry of Health)	BC Health Median Wait (1)	Implied 2014 Expected Wait (2)	Fraser Institute Median Wait (3)	Specialty/Procedure (Fraser Institute survey)
Orthopaedic Surgery	11.1	27.2	35.1	Orthopaedic Surgery
<i>Knee Arthroscopy</i>	8.4	22.3		
<i>Foot/Ankle Surgery</i>	14.0	30.2	24.0	<i>Meniscectomy/Arthroscopy</i>
<i>Knee - ACL Repair</i>	10.6	21.0		
<i>Hip Replacement Surgery</i>	16.7	31.2		
<i>Knee Replacement Surgery</i>	21.0	41.6	40.0	<i>Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)</i>
Thoracic Surgery	2.1	8.6	1.7 (U)/ 7.6 (E)	Cardiovascular Surgery
Vascular Surgery	3.9	24.3		
<i>Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (Priority 2)</i>	0.6 (4a)	1.7	2.0	<i>Coronary Artery Bypass (Urgent)</i>
<i>Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (Priority 3)</i>	1.9 (4a)	7.6	3.5	<i>Coronary Artery Bypass (Elective)</i>
<i>Aortic Aneurysm Repair</i>	4.0	7.3	2.0 (U)/ 3.5 (E)	<i>Aneurysm Surgery (7)</i>
<i>Endarterectomy</i>	2.4	13.2	2.0 (U)/ 5.3 (E)	<i>Carotid Endarterectomy (8)</i>
Urology	3.9	10.7	5.2	Urology
<i>Prostate Surgery</i>	4.8	11.4	12.0	<i>Non-Radical Prostatectomy</i>
			6.0	<i>Radical Prostatectomy</i>
Radiotherapy	1.1 (4b)	1.5	4.3	Radiation Oncology

(1) Median wait for 3 months ending April 30, 2014

(2) Number of weeks to exhaust the list of patients waiting

(3) Prospective median wait, national hospital waiting list survey, 2014

(4a) Median wait for 3 months ending March 31, 2014; (4b) Median wait for 3 months ending Jan 31, 2014

(5) The Fraser Institute measures the wait time for Rhinoplasty in two surgical areas: Otolaryngology and Plastic Surgery. The wait time in Otolaryngology is presented here. The wait time in Plastic Surgery is 24.0

(6) The Fraser Institute measures the wait time for Hernia/Hydrocele in two surgical areas: General Surgery and Urology. The wait time for in General Surgery is presented here. The wait time in Urology is 12.0

(7) The Fraser Institute measures the wait time for Aneurysm Surgery in three surgical areas: General Surgery, Neurosurgery, and Cardiovascular Surgery. The wait time in Cardiovascular Surgery is presented here. The wait time in Neurosurgery is 6.5

(8) The Fraser Institute measure wait time for Carotid Endarterectomy in two surgical areas: Neurosurgery and Cardiovascular Surgery. The wait time in Cardiovascular Surgery are presented here. The wait time in Neurosurgery is 2.0.

Sources: British Columbia Ministry of Health, 2014a; and The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2014

For the three months ending April 30, 2014, the BC government's reported median wait averaged about 38% of the "expected" wait, ranging from 16% (for vascular surgery) to 75% (for radiotherapy).⁸ The Institute's median wait time data, meanwhile, averages about 79% of the "expected" wait.

It should be noted that the BC Ministry of Health Services has, in years past, found its counts of patients waiting for treatment to be highly problematic. For example, some patients had already been treated and not removed from waiting lists (Waiting Your Turn, 2010). This suggests that the "expected" wait may be overstating the wait times in British Columbia. However, the number of patients waiting for treatment would have to drop to about half of the current reported level, on average, in order for the ministry's measurements of waiting times to be consistent with the number of patients waiting and procedures being performed. In other words, the true patient experience in British Columbia likely lies somewhere between the "expected" wait estimated above and the wait time reported by the ministry, which is precisely where the wait times and estimates of procedures for which patients are waiting produced by the Fraser Institute generally lie.

Saskatchewan

The Saskatchewan Surgical Care Network (SSCN) wait list web site provides measures of waiting times from the provincial registry for surgeries in most areas of Saskatchewan. The measures presented by Saskatchewan are for non-emergent surgeries and measure the wait from "the date that the health region receives the booking form from the surgeon until the date that the surgery is performed" (SSCN, 2014a). As noted above, this methodology differs significantly from that used by the Fraser Institute.

One difference between the wait times presented here and those available on the SSCN website is that between measuring at the time a new patient is seen by the specialist, and when the booking for the procedure is actually made. A number of systemic delays can occur between the time the patient is seen by a specialist and the time a booking is made. The first is that there is often a delay to order, complete, and analyze test results (in particular, imaging scans). Another delay relates to the fact that there may be a wait list to make the actual booking. A telephone survey of Saskatchewan physicians conducted by the authors of *Waiting Your Turn* in 2002 revealed that at least some of the physicians did not place their elective patients on the government waiting list until the

8. These percentages are calculated from exact calculated "expected" wait times. The "expected wait time" is rounded for inclusion in the table.

patients became urgent cases. Thus, waiting times that measure from booking time to actual procedure will not capture the waiting times for testing and any delays in booking that occur. The SSCN website acknowledges this itself by noting that their wait times “do not include any delays that may occur between the date of the decision to have surgery and the date that the booking form from the surgeon is received by the health region” (SSCN, 2014b).

The crucial difference between the two measures, however, is the inclusion of urgent surgeries. The SSCN website measures waiting times for all non-emergent surgeries (that is, urgent and elective surgery waits are measured), while *Waiting Your Turn* measures waiting times for only elective surgeries (with the exception of cardiovascular surgery where emergent, urgent, and elective wait times are measured). This means that urgent wait times (which are significantly shorter than elective wait times) are included in the wait time measures available on the SSCN website, but not in those measured by the Fraser Institute. The resulting conclusion is that the numbers available on the SSCN website are not directly comparable to those measured in *Waiting Your Turn*.

It is, however, possible to construct a measure from SSCN data that is more comparable with that measured by the Fraser Institute. In addition to the non-emergent median wait time measures published on its web site, SSCN also provides data on the proportion of patients (non-emergent) that were treated in several time frames: 0–3 weeks, 4–6 weeks, 7 weeks to 3 months, 4–6 months, 7–12 months, and more than 12 months. By eliminating the proportion of patients treated in the shortest time frame (0–3 weeks), and by taking the mid-points of the remaining times to be 5, 10, 21.7, 41.2, and 56 weeks respectively, it is possible to construct a weighted average “elective” wait time measure for Saskatchewan that should be more comparable with the elective wait times measured by the Fraser Institute.⁹ The calculated SSCN elective wait time measure is shown in [chart 12](#). This comparison suggests that the Fraser Institute’s measures neither necessarily overstate nor necessarily understate the actual patient experience in Saskatchewan. Notably, there are no cases where the Institute’s estimates are longer than the SSCN elective wait time measure.

9. The authors of this report acknowledge the possibility that some elective procedures may have been performed in the 0–3 week time frame, and that their elimination from the analysis may result in a calculated elective wait that may be larger than the true wait for elective procedures. At the same time, assigning a 56 week wait for patients waiting any amount of time more than 12 months may result in a calculated elective wait time that may be smaller than the true wait for elective procedures.

Chart 12: Comparison between Saskatchewan Surgical Care Network wait list measures and Waiting Your Turn 2014 (in weeks)

Specialty/Procedure	SSCN Median Wait (1)	SSCN Elective Wait (2)	Fraser Institute Median Wait
Plastic Surgery	4.9	19.6	5.0
Gynaecology	4.0	14.5	9.7
Ophthalmology	4.1	13.1	7.2
Otolaryngology	7.1	16.8	10.3
General Surgery	4.0	14.6	5.1
Neurosurgery	7.0	23.0	7.4
Orthopaedic Surgery	9.1	16.1	12.4
Cardiac Surgery	0.4	8.4	—
Vascular Surgery	2.0	19.1	—
Urology	3.7	11.7	1.1
All Procedures/Specialties	5.1	15.1	7.0

(1) SSCN non-emergent median wait times are retrospectively measured for procedures performed January to March 2014.

(2) SSCN Elective wait is measured by eliminating the 0-3 weeks time frame in the weighted average measure(3). SSCN measures non-emergent surgeries, which includes both urgent and elective. In an attempt to eliminate the measure of urgent procedures, the shortest time frame is removed to allow better comparability with the waiting times presented in Waiting Your Turn

(3) Saskatchewan Surgical Care Network data is available as a proportion of patients who received their surgery within certain time frames. The weighted average measure here is based on a weighted measure of the mid-point of each time frame. For example, if 19.4% of patients in Saskatchewan waited less than 3 weeks for Orthopaedic Surgery, 17% waited 4 to 6 weeks, 29% waited 7 weeks to 3 months, 26.6% waited 4 to 6 months, 7.1% waited 7 to 12 months, and 0.9% waited more than 12 months. Removing the percentage of patients treated in the 0-3 week time frame, and taking the mid-points of the remaining time frames to be 5, 10, 21.7, 41.2, and 56 weeks respectively gives an average elective waiting time of 16.1 weeks.

Sources: Saskatchewan Surgical Care Network, 2014b; the Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey; calculations by authors.

With respect to the estimates of procedures for which patients are waiting, the Fraser Institute's estimates are only higher than the SSCN's counts of patients waiting for care for General Surgery ([chart 13](#)). This disparity may arise from differences in what is being measured: the SSCN's counts include only patients waiting for procedures done in operating rooms (with the exception of most endoscopy procedures) and do not count patients who will be treated in other locations such as endoscopic rooms, cardiac catheter rooms, and procedure rooms in ambulatory care, while the Fraser Institute's estimates include counts for all patients treated in hospitals.

Chart 13: Comparison between patients waiting according to Saskatchewan Surgical Care Network wait list and procedures for which patients are waiting estimate from Waiting Your Turn 2014

Specialty	SSCN Count (1)	FI Estimate
Plastic Surgery	416	82
Gynaecology	1,676	1,276
Ophthalmology	2,655	2,299
Otolaryngology	1,846	1,017
General Surgery	2,199	2,887
Neurosurgery	375	273
Orthopaedic Surgery	3,558	2,777
Cardiac Surgery	40	—
Vascular Surgery	169	—
Urology	759	199
Sum	13,484	10,811

(1) SSCN Patients waiting count at March 31, 2014.

Sources: Saskatchewan Surgical Care Network, 2014b; the Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey.

Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia's Department of Health and Wellness provided the Fraser Institute with their data on the median wait time to see a specialist after referral for the period April 1, 2014 to September 30, 2014. The Fraser Institute reports prospective median waiting times for new patients seeking a "routine office consultation". [Chart 14](#) gives the data provided by the Nova Scotia Department of Health & Wellness, along with the Fraser Institute's wait times measurements.

In addition, the department also provided the Fraser Institute with data for the median wait time for treatment after an appointment with a specialist for the period April 1, 2014 to September 30, 2014. This calculation is based on "completed surgeries during time frame, from date surgical request was received by hospital to date of surgery" and includes "only procedures performed in an Operating Room in publicly-funded hospitals" (Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness, personal communication, October 29, 2014). The Fraser Institute, meanwhile, reports prospective median waiting times for elective procedures from the specialist's decision to treat the patient. [Chart 15](#) gives the data provided by the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness,

Chart 14: Comparison of waiting times in Nova Scotia, Specialist after Referral, 2014

Specialty/Procedure	Median Wait to See a Specialist after Referral (NS Health) (1)	Median Wait to See a Specialist after Referral (Fraser Institute) (2)
Plastic Surgery	11.7	17.0
Obstetrics/Gynaecology	8.3	5.0
Ophthalmology	20.3	11.0
Otolaryngology (ENT)	14.3	10.0
General Surgery	7.9	26.0
Neurosurgery	11.0	12.0
Orthopaedic	17.1	26.0
Urology	9.1	18.0
	Urgent: 1.0*	
Internal Medicine	Semi-Urgent: 3.4*	6.5
	Non-Urgent: 6.9*	
Radiation Oncology	1.7*	4.0
Medical Oncology	2.6*	3.5

(1) Median Wait to See a Specialist after Referral (in Weeks) based on new consults received during time frame for patients who were deemed to require surgery, April 1, 2014 to September 30, 2014; categories marked *: April 1, 2014 to June 30, 2014.

(2) Prospective median waiting times for new patients seeking a routine office consultation, National Waiting List Survey, 2014.

Sources: Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness, personal communication, October 29, 2014; and the Fraser Institute's waiting list survey.

along with the Fraser Institute's wait times measurements. **Chart 16** compares estimates for the number of procedures for which patients are waiting, while **Chart 17** compares median wait times for diagnostic technology.

The methodology used to develop the wait time measures provided by the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness differs significantly from that used by the Fraser Institute. Again, the key differences are the inclusion of urgent surgeries, the starting of the wait-time clock when the booking request is received at the hospital, and the retrospective measurement of wait times compared to the Fraser Institute's prospective wait times measurement. As discussed above, these differences mean the numbers provided by the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness are not directly comparable to those measured in *Waiting Your Turn*.

Chart 15: Comparison of waiting times in Nova Scotia, treatment after appointment, 2014

Specialty/Procedure (NS Health)	Median Wait Time for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (NS Health) (1)	Median Wait Time for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (Fraser Institute) (2)	Specialty/Procedure (Fraser Institute)
Plastic Surgery	2.0	13.2	Plastic Surgery
<i>Mammoplasty/Insertion breast implant</i>	4.4	12.0	<i>Mammoplasty</i>
<i>Blepharoplasty</i>	2.1	18.0	<i>Blepharoplasty</i>
<i>Revision Scar</i>	2.8	17.0	<i>Scar Revision</i>
Obstetrics/Gynaecology	6.1	5.9	Gynaecology
<i>Dilation & Curettage</i>	2.1	4.0	<i>Dilation & Curettage</i>
<i>Tubal Ligation</i>	6.0	5.0	<i>Tubal Ligation</i>
<i>Vaginoplasty</i>	5.0	8.0	<i>Vaginal Repair</i>
<i>Tuboplasty</i>	6.9	5.0	<i>Tuboplasty</i>
Ophthalmology	8.3	12.8	Ophthalmology
<i>Cataract Extraction</i>	9.0	12.0	<i>Cataract Removal</i>
<i>Nasal Lacrimal Duct Probe/ Balloon Dilation</i>	9.6	18.0	<i>Lacrimal Duct</i>
<i>Repair Strabismus</i>	18.7	26.0	<i>Strabismus</i>
<i>Trabeculectomy/ Glaucoma Surgery</i>	1.9	7.0	<i>Glaucoma</i>
Otolaryngology (ENT)	6.6	13.1	Otolaryngology
<i>Myringotomy with tubes</i>	4.0	8.0	<i>Myringotomy</i>
<i>Tympanoplasty (w/wo grafting, canalplasty, ossiculoplasty)</i>	14.0	12.0	<i>Tympanoplasty</i>
<i>Tonsillectomy and Adenoidectomy</i>	6.1	12.0	<i>Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy</i>
General Surgery	3.7	12.5	General Surgery
<i>Cholecystectomy-open</i>	1.9	19.0	<i>Cholecystectomy</i>
<i>Laparoscopic cholecystectomy</i>	4.9		
<i>Mastectomy</i>	2.0	4.0	<i>Mastectomy</i>
<i>Varicose Vein ligation/ stripping</i>	7.2	—	<i>Varicose Veins</i>
Neurosurgery	3.9	14.0	Neurosurgery
Orthopaedic	15.5	56.9	Orthopaedic Surgery
<i>Ankle Arthroplasty</i>	—		
<i>Hip Arthroplasty</i>	23.2	65	<i>Arthroplasty Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder</i>
<i>Knee Arthroplasty</i>	32.4		
<i>Shoulder Arthroplasty</i>	12.0		

Chart 15, continued: comparison of waiting times in Nova Scotia, treatment after appointment, 2014

Specialty/Procedure (NS Health)	Median Wait Time for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (NS Health) (1)	Median Wait Time for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (Fraser Institute) (2)	Specialty/Procedure (Fraser Institute)
Cardiovascular Surgery	–	1.5 (U)/6.8 (E)	Cardiovascular Surgery
<i>Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Without Valves</i>	0.7	–	<i>Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (Urgent)</i>
		–	<i>Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (Elective)</i>
		1.5	<i>Carotid Endarterectomy (Cardiovascular Urgent)</i>
<i>Endarterectomy Carotid</i>	1.6	7.0	<i>Carotid Endarterectomy (Cardiovascular Elective)</i>
		26.0	<i>Carotid Endarterectomy (Neurosurgery)</i>
<i>Pacemaker Insertion/Explor/ Removal/W/WO Replacement Lead or Battery</i>	2.7	–	<i>Pacemaker Operations (Urgent)</i>
		–	<i>Pacemaker Operations (Elective)</i>
Urology	2.6	22.5	Urology
<i>Prostatectomy</i>	4.0	12.0	<i>Non-radical Prostatectomy</i>
		6.0	<i>Radical Prostatectomy</i>
<i>Cystectomy</i>	2.1	7.0	<i>Radical Cystectomy</i>
<i>Cystoscopy With or Without Urethral Dilation</i>	3.6	28.0	<i>Cystoscopy</i>

(1) Median Wait Time for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks) based on completed surgeries during time frame, from date surgical request received by hospital to date of surgery. Includes only procedures performed in an Operating room in publicly-funded hospitals. April 1, 2014–September 30, 2014.

(2) Prospective Median Wait (weeks) for treatment after appointment with a specialist, National Waiting List Survey, 2014

Sources: Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness, personal communication, October 29, 2014; and The Fraser Institute's waiting list survey

Chart 16: Comparison of procedures for which patients are waiting in Nova Scotia, Treatment after Appointment, 2014

Specialty/Procedure (NS Health)	Number waiting as of September 30, 2014 (1)	Number of procedures for which patients are waiting (Fraser Institute)	Specialty/Procedure (Fraser Institute)
Plastic Surgery	681	347	Plastic Surgery
<i>Mammoplasty/Insertion breast implant</i>	<6	94	<i>Mammoplasty</i>
<i>Blepharoplasty</i>	11	5	<i>Blepharoplasty</i>
<i>Revision Scar</i>	12	124	<i>Scar Revision</i>
Obstetrics/Gynaecology	1,704	614	Gynaecology
<i>Dilation & Curettage</i>	6	94	<i>Dilation & Curettage</i>
<i>Tubal Ligation</i>	137	95	<i>Tubal Ligation</i>
<i>Vaginoplasty</i>	<6	78	<i>Vaginal Repair</i>
<i>Tuboplasty</i>	<6	2	<i>Tuboplasty</i>
Ophthalmology	4,701	4,446	Ophthalmology
<i>Cataract Extraction</i>	3,717	2,961	<i>Cataract Removal</i>
<i>Nasal Lacrimal Duct Probe/ Balloon Dilation</i>	36	63	<i>Lacrimal Duct</i>
<i>Repair Strabismus</i>	220	208	<i>Strabismus</i>
<i>Trabeculectomy/ Glaucoma Surgery</i>	68	—	<i>Glaucoma</i>
Otolaryngology (ENT)	1,619	1,067	Otolaryngology
<i>Myringotomy with tubes</i>	103	209	<i>Myringotomy</i>
<i>Tympanoplasty (w/wo grafting, canalplasty, ossiculoplasty)</i>	103	78	<i>Tympanoplasty</i>
<i>Tonsillectomy</i>	122	249	<i>Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy</i>
General Surgery	2,587	6,137	General Surgery
<i>Cholecystectomy-open</i>	8	1,047	<i>Cholecystectomy</i>
<i>Laparoscopic cholecystectomy</i>	332		
<i>Mastectomy</i>	38	98	<i>Mastectomy</i>
<i>Varicose Vein ligation/ stripping</i>	186	—	<i>Varicose Veins</i>
Neurosurgery	285	340	Neurosurgery
Orthopaedic	7,478	9,356	Orthopaedic Surgery
<i>Ankle Arthroplasty</i>	6		
<i>Hip Arthroplasty</i>	892	6,188	<i>Arthroplasty Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder</i>
<i>Knee Arthroplasty</i>	2,387		
<i>Shoulder Arthroplasty</i>	76		

Chart 16, continued: Comparison of procedures for which patients are waiting in Nova Scotia, Treatment after Appointment, 2014

Specialty/Procedure (NS Health)	Number waiting as of September 30, 2014 (1)	Number of procedures for which patients are waiting (Fraser Institute)	Specialty/Procedure (Fraser Institute)
Cardiovascular Surgery	—	3	Cardiovascular Surgery
<i>Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Without Valves</i>	36	—	<i>Coronary Artery Bypass Graft</i>
<i>Endarterectomy Carotid</i>	10	2	<i>Carotid Endarterectomy (Cardiovascular Surgery)</i>
		21	<i>Carotid Endarterectomy (Neurosurgery)</i>
<i>Pacemaker Insertion/Explor/Removal/W/WO Replacement Lead or Battery</i>	13	—	<i>Pacemaker Operations</i>
Urology	1,609	4,706	Urology
<i>Prostatectomy</i>	17	12	<i>Non-radical Prostatectomy</i>
		24	<i>Radical Prostatectomy</i>
<i>Cystectomy</i>	<6	8	<i>Radical Cystectomy</i>
<i>Cystoscopy With or Without Urethral Dilation</i>	<6	4,094	<i>Cystoscopy</i>

(1) Includes only procedures performed in an Operating room in publicly-funded hospitals. Number waiting includes only cases that have been assigned a surgical priority. April 1, 2014–September 30, 2014.

Sources: Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness, personal communication, October 29, 2014; and The Fraser Institute's waiting list survey

Chart 17: Comparison of waiting times in Nova Scotia, diagnostic technology, 2014

Diagnostic Technology	Median Wait Time (NS Health) (1)	Median Wait Time (Fraser Institute) (2)
CT-Scan	3.1	4.0
MRI	8.0	10.0
Ultrasound	5.3	5.0

(1) Based on completed tests during timeframe, from request received by hospital to date of examination. April 1, 2014–June 30, 2014.

(2) Prospective median waiting times for new patients, National Waiting List Survey, 2014.

Sources: Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness, personal communication, October 29, 2014; the Fraser Institute's waiting list survey

Verification and comparison of earlier data with independent sources

The waiting list data can also be verified by comparison with independently computed estimates, primarily found in academic journals. There exist 95 independent waiting time estimates that can be compared with recent Fraser Institute's figures. In 59 of the 95 cases, the Institute figures lie below the comparison values. In only 31 instances does the Institute value exceed the comparison value, and in five cases they are identical. This evidence strongly suggests that the Institute's measurements are not biased upward, but, if anything, may be biased downward, understating actual waiting times. (For further explanation, see *Waiting Your Turn*, 2009).

Pan-Canadian benchmarks

Canada's provincial, territorial, and federal governments agreed to a set of common benchmarks for medically necessary treatment on December 12, 2005 (Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, 2005). **Chart 18** compares those benchmarks for which a similar comparator exists in *Waiting Your Turn*. Two observations arise from this comparison. First, Canada's physicians tend to have a lower threshold for reasonable wait times than do Canada's provincial, territorial, and federal governments. Second, median wait times in many provinces are already within the benchmarks set by governments in Canada, which means that according to these benchmarks, more than 50% of patients in these provinces are already being treated in a time frame that provincial governments consider "reasonable".¹⁰

10. Note that although the median wait time is less than the benchmark wait time, this does not mean that provinces have already met their targets. The pan-Canadian benchmark wait times apply to all patient cases, while the median wait time is the time by which 50% of patients have been treated and 50% of patients are still waiting for treatment.

Chart 18: Pan-Canadian benchmark wait times and Waiting Your Turn 2014

Procedure (Pan-Canadian Benchmark/ Waiting Your Turn)	Pan-Canadian Benchmark Wait Time	National Median Wait Time (1) (Range of Provincial Median Wait Times) in weeks	National Median Reasonable Wait Time (1) (Range of Provincial Reasonable Median Wait Times) in weeks
Radiation Therapy/ Radiation Oncology	within 4 weeks of patients being ready to treat	2.5 (1.5–4.5)	3.3 (1.2–3.6)
Hip Replacements	within 26 weeks	26.1 (12.0–65.0)	13.2 (10.0–33.0)
Knee Replacements	within 26 weeks	26.1 (12.0–65.0)	13.2 (10.0–33.0)
Cataract Surgery	within 16 weeks for patients who are at high risk	10.7 (8.0–29.0)	8.8 (6.0–13.5)
Cardiac Bypass Surgery	Level I within 2 weeks/ Level II within 6 weeks/ Level III within 26 weeks	Emergent: 0.2 (0.0–0.5)/ Urgent: 1.7 (1.0–2.5)/ Elective: 6.5 (3.0–12.0)	Emergent: 0.7 (0.0–1.0)/ Urgent: 2.1 (1.5–4.0)/ Elective: 6.7 (3.0–14.0)

(1) These wait times were produced for individual procedures using the same methodology used to produce national median wait times for medical specialties, described above under “Methodology”.

Sources: Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, 2005 and The Fraser Institute’s National Waiting List Survey.

Conclusion

The 2014 Waiting Your Turn survey indicates that the total waiting time for elective medical treatment across the provinces has not changed since 2013, and that it remains at a very high level historically. Even if one debates the reliability of waiting-list data, this survey reveals that wait times in Canada are longer than what physicians consider to be clinically reasonable.

From the standpoint of the Canadian economy, a study by Stokes and Somerville (2008) found that the cumulative total lost economic output that represents the cost of waiting longer than medically recommended for treatment for total joint replacement surgery, cataract surgery, coronary artery bypass graft surgery, and MRI scans in 2007 was an estimated \$14.8 billion. More recently, Esmail (2014) estimated the cost of waiting per patient in Canada to be approximately \$1,202 in 2013 if only hours during the normal working week were considered “lost”, and as much as \$3,681 if all hours of the week (excluding 8 hours of sleep per night) were considered “lost”.

Further, there is a significant body of medical literature identifying adverse consequences from prolonged waiting (*Waiting Your Turn*, 2009; Day, 2013).

This year’s survey of specialists also found that an estimated 1.1% of patients received elective treatment in another country during 2013/14. Physicians also report that only about 10.4% of their patients are on a waiting list because they requested a delay or postponement, and that 47.9% would agree to have their procedure performed within a week¹¹ if an opening arose.

Thus, despite provincial strategies to reduce wait times and high levels of health expenditure, it is clear that patients in Canada are waiting too long to receive treatment.

11. The survey asks physicians what percentage of their patients currently waiting for treatment would agree to begin treatment tomorrow if an opening were to arise. However, comments by respondents of previous surveys indicate that at least some respondents answer the question as if it were “a few days”.

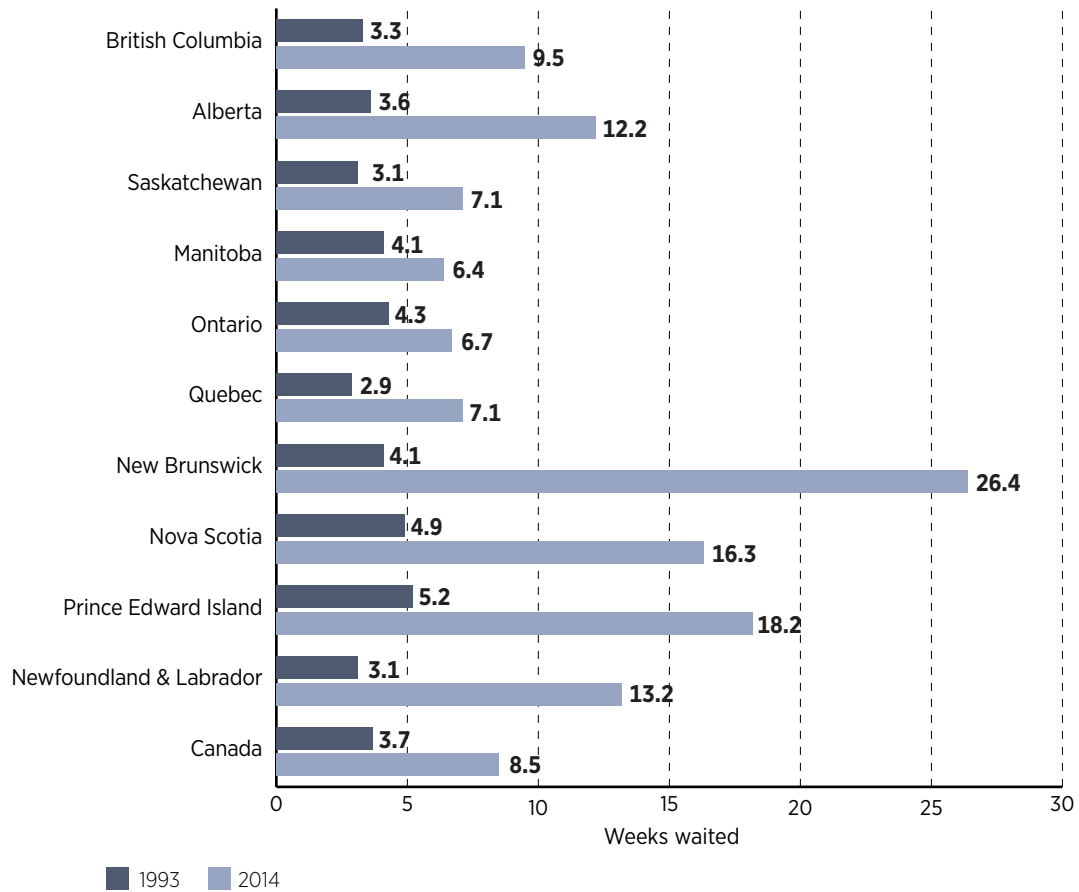
Selected graphs

Graphs 1-6: Median Actual Waiting Times, 1993 and 2014

Graphs 7-8: Median Reasonable Waiting Times, 1994 and 2014

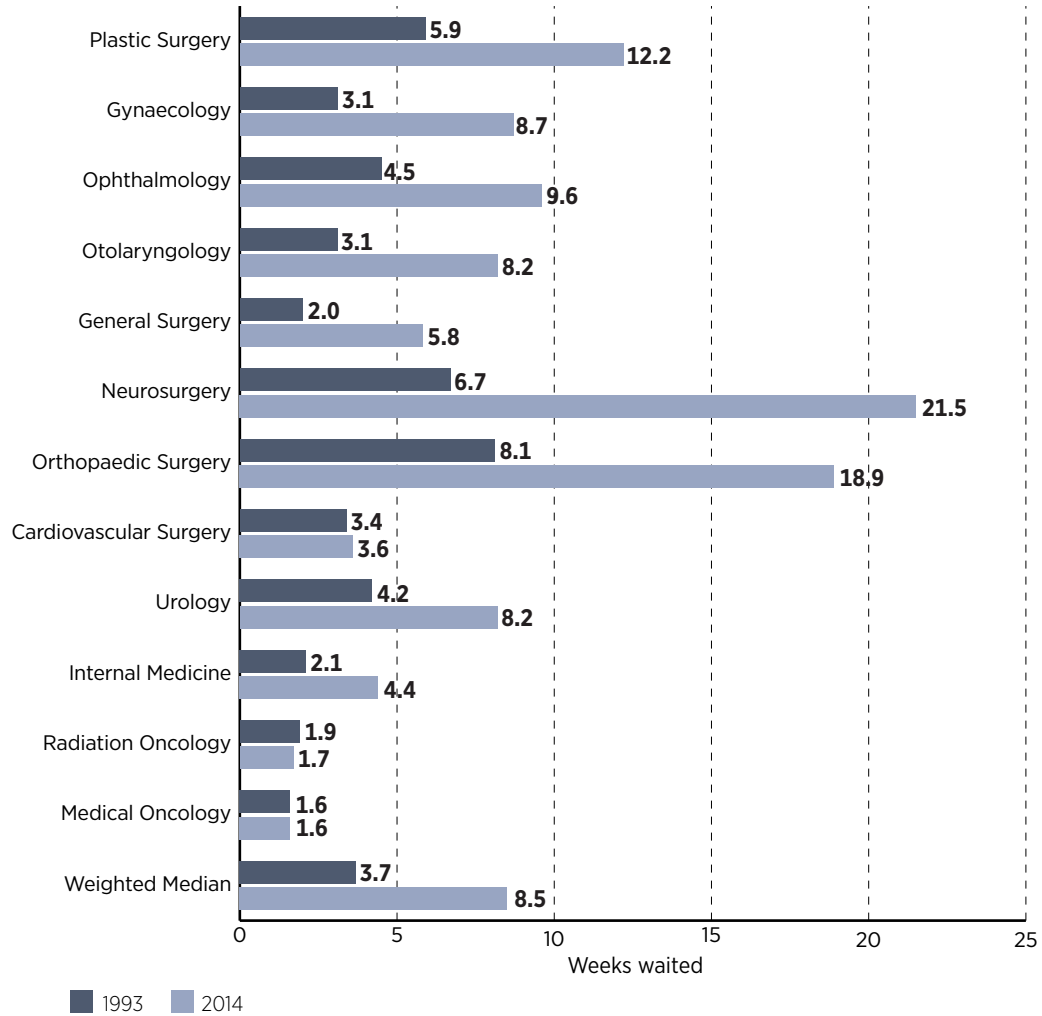
Graphs 9-19: Actual versus Reasonable Waiting Times, 1994 to 2014, by Province

Graph 1: Median wait between referral by GP and appointment with specialist, by province, 1993 and 2014



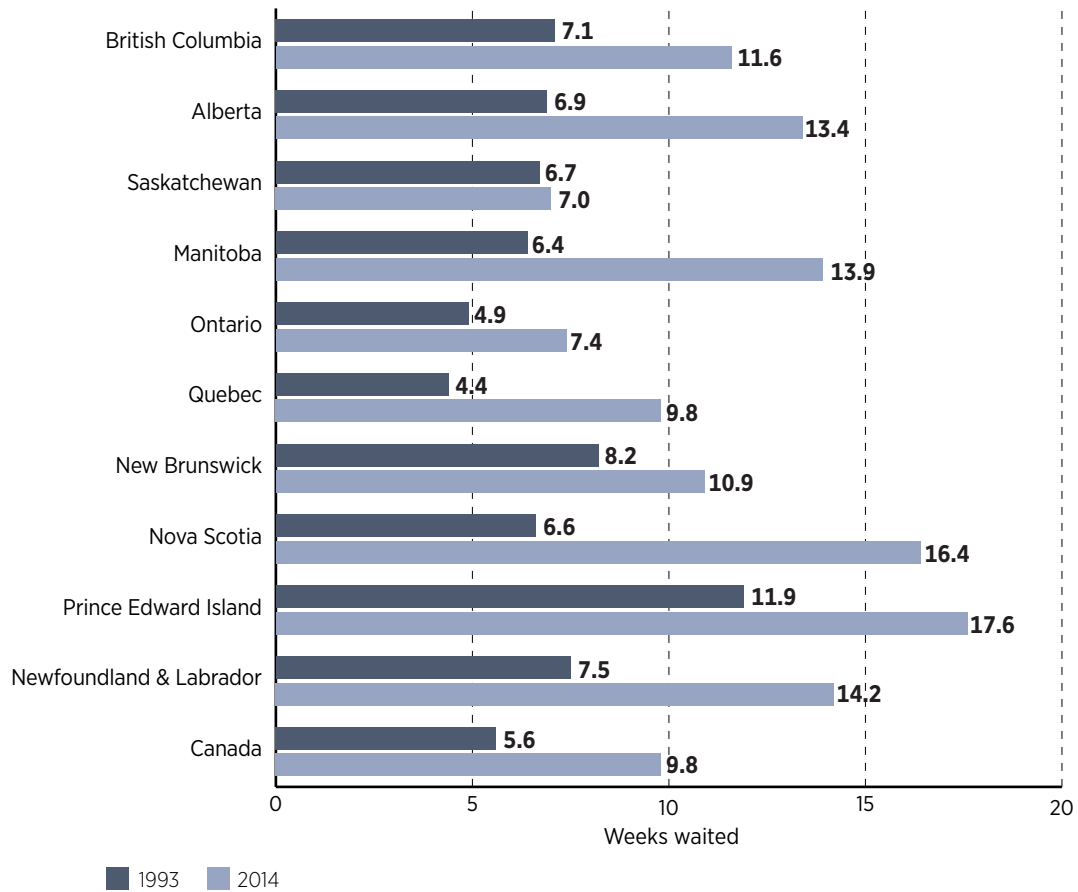
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2014; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 2: Median wait between referral by GP and appointment with specialist, by specialty, 1993 and 2014



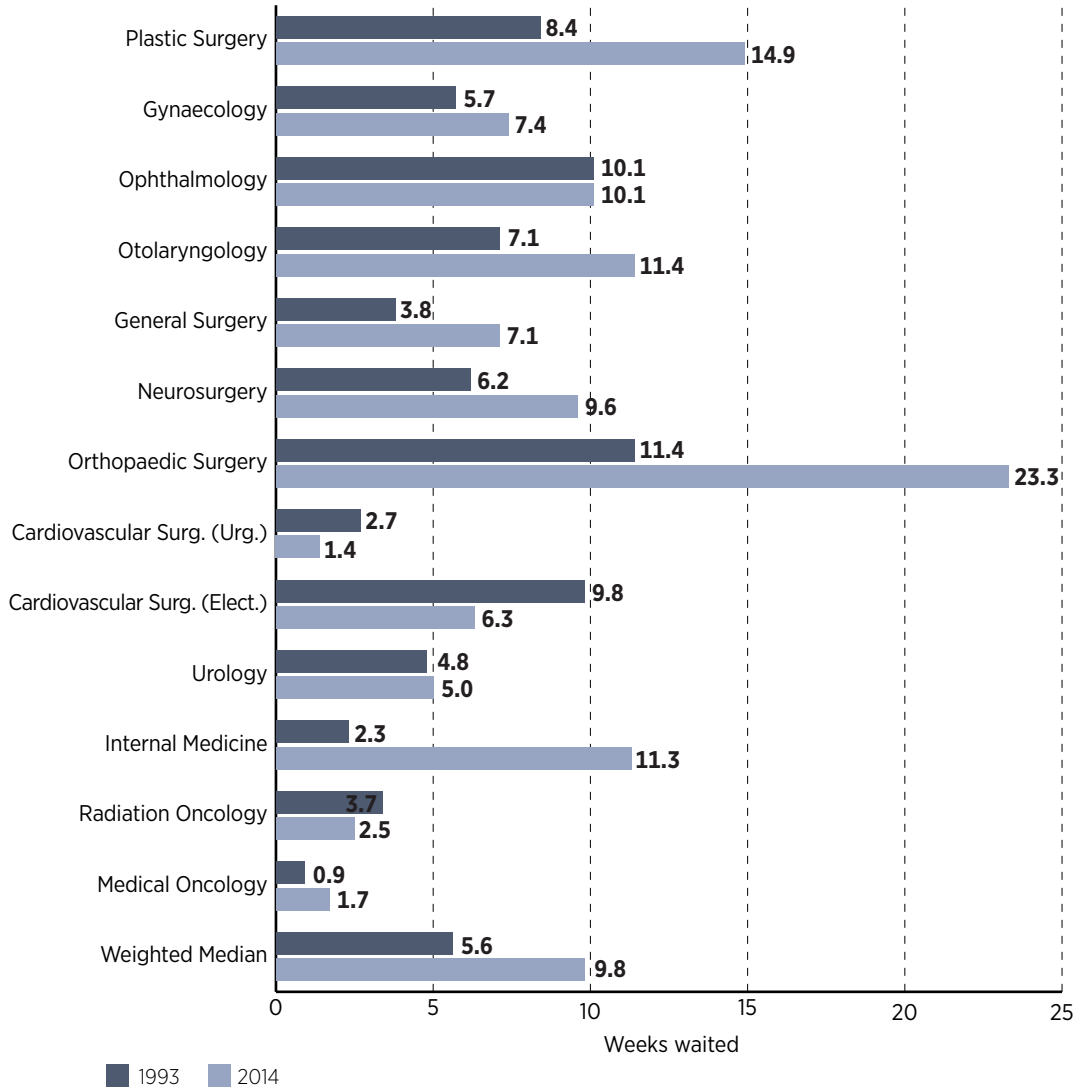
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2014; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 3: Median wait between appointment with specialist and treatment, by province, 1993 and 2014



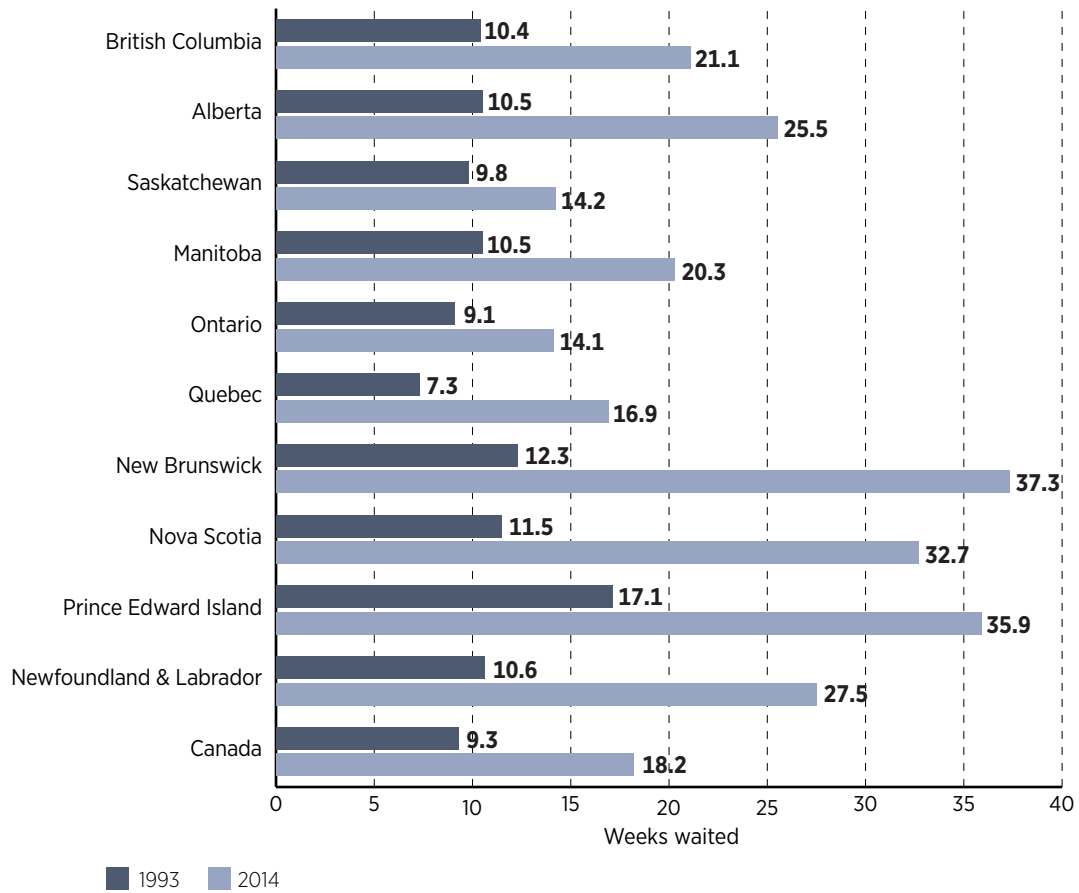
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2014; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 4: Median wait between appointment with specialist and treatment, by specialty, 1993 and 2014



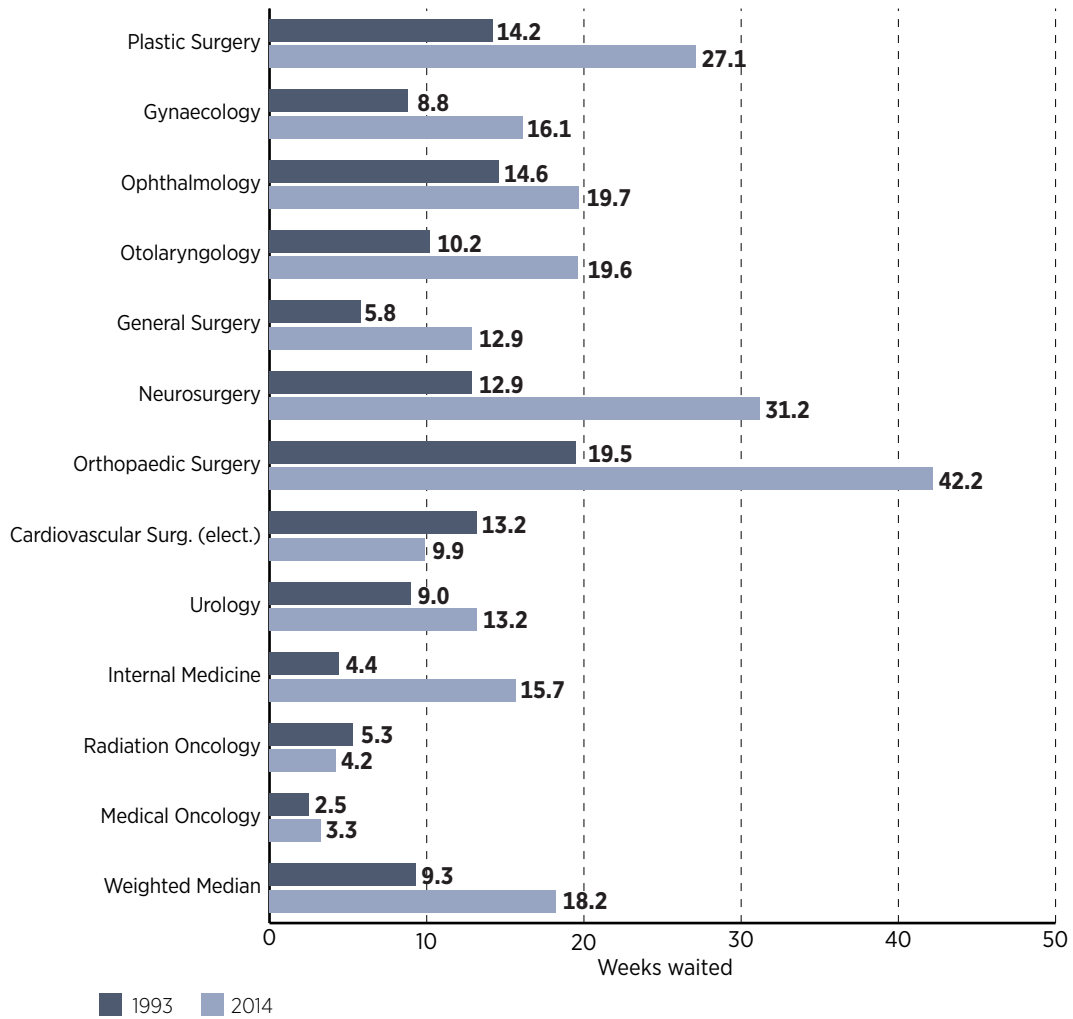
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2014; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 5: Median wait between referral by GP and treatment, by province, 1993 and 2014



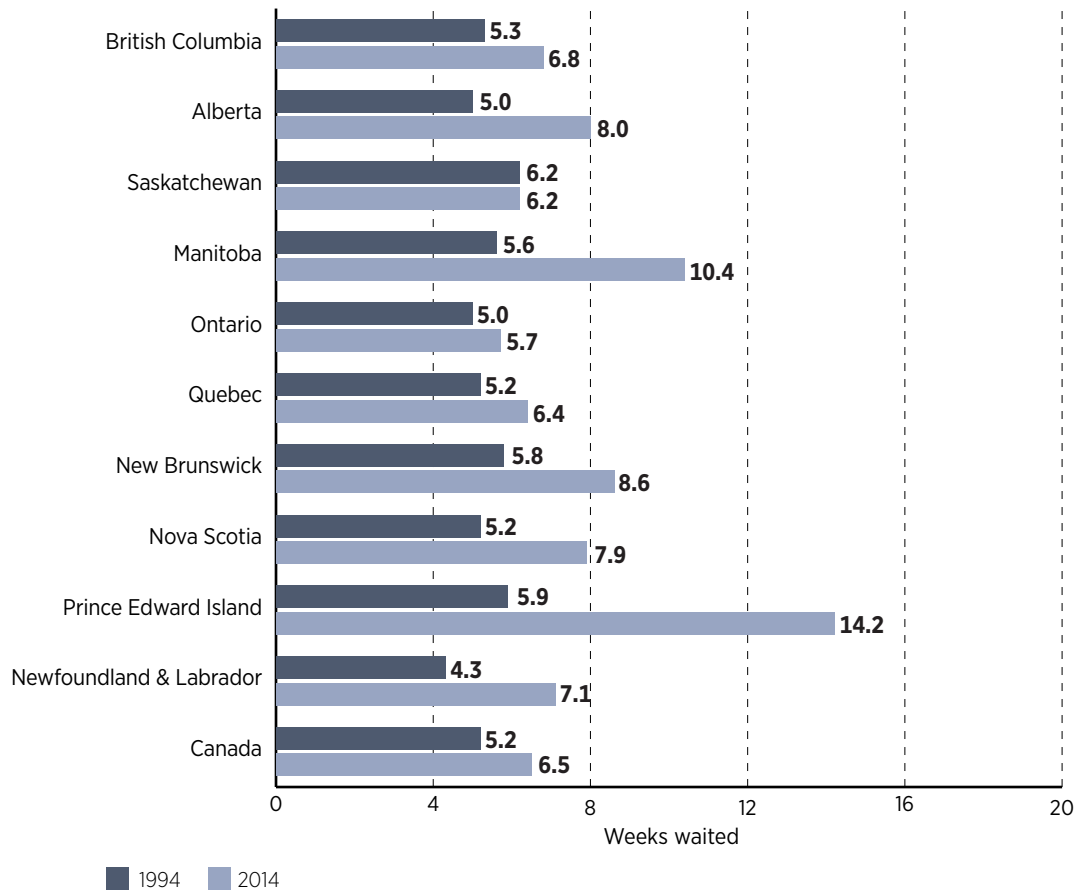
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2014; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 6: Median wait between referral by GP and treatment, by specialty, 1993 and 2014



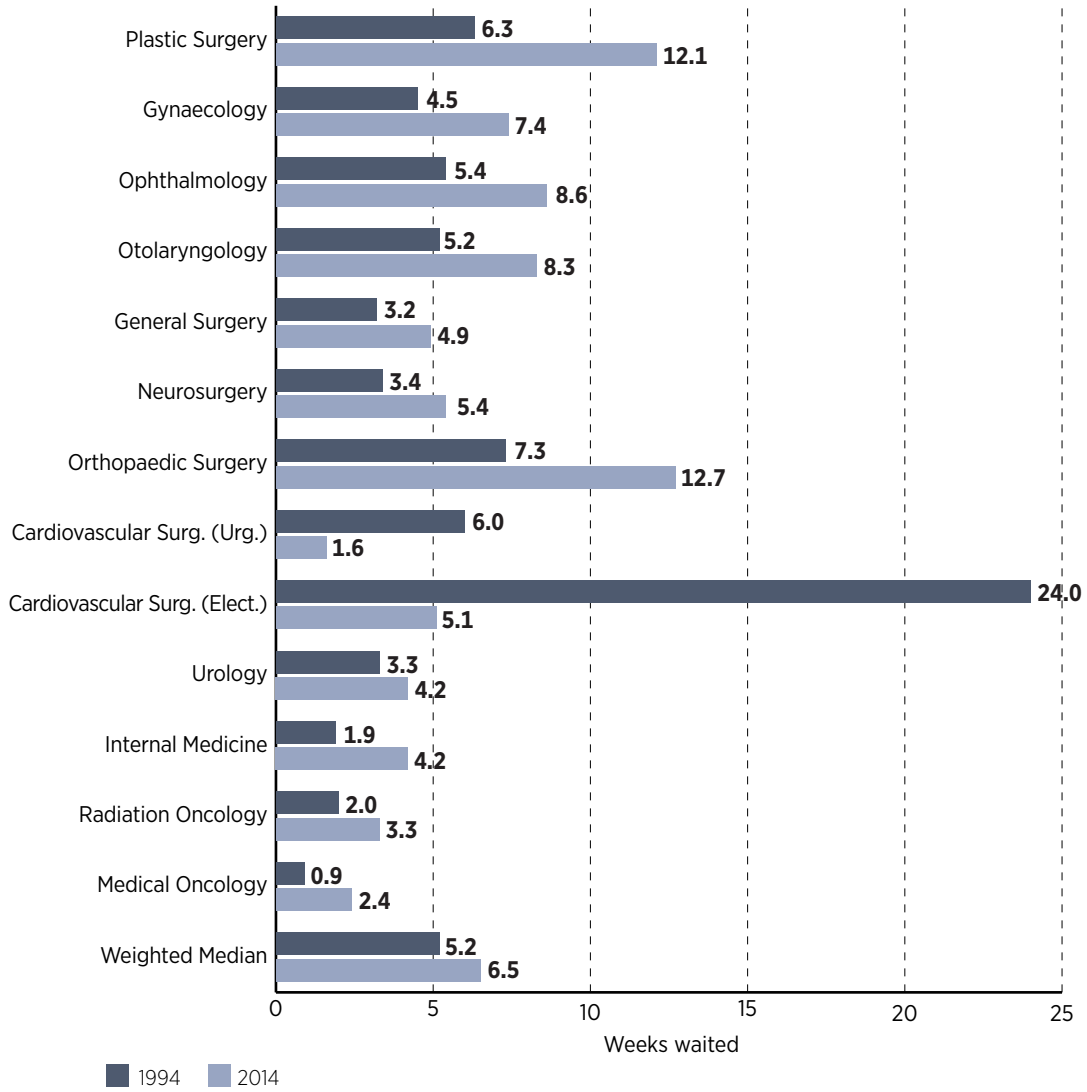
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2014; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 7: Median reasonable wait between appointment with specialist and treatment, by province, 1994 and 2014



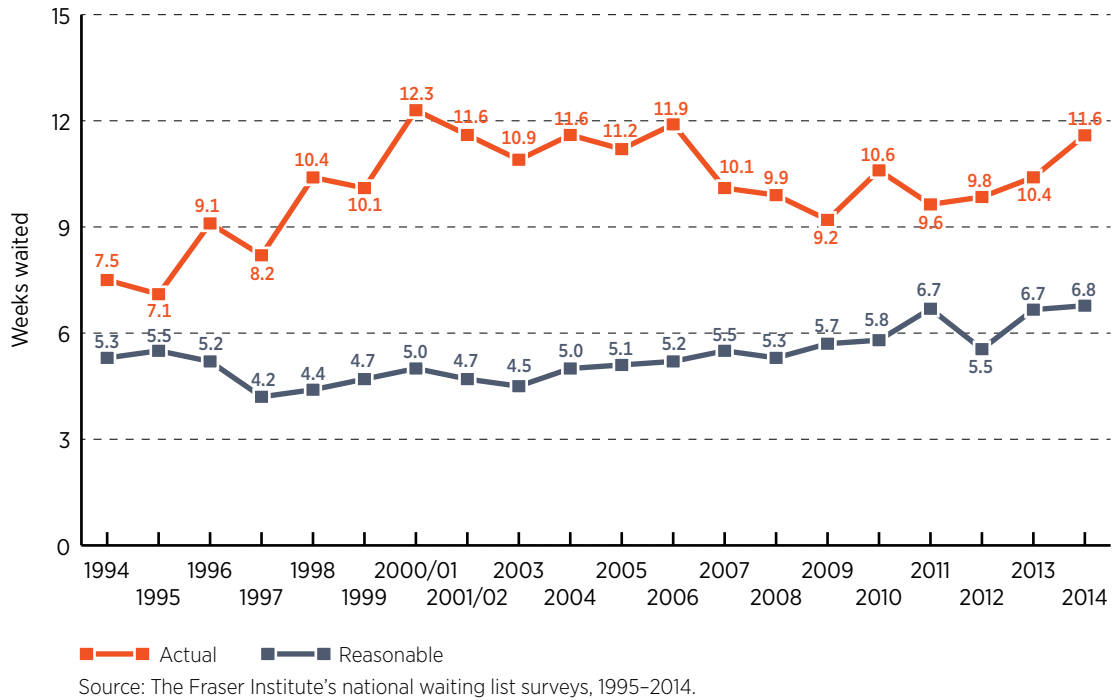
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2014; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 8: Median reasonable wait between appointment with specialist and treatment, by specialty, 1994 and 2014

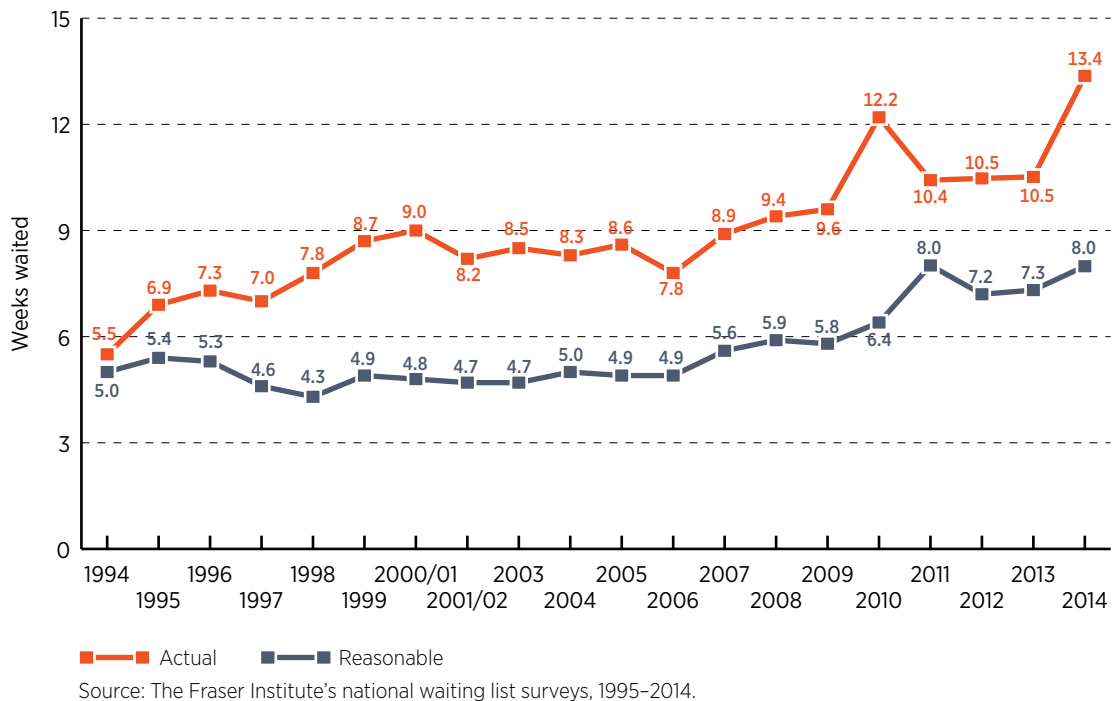


Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2014; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 9: British Columbia—actual versus reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2014



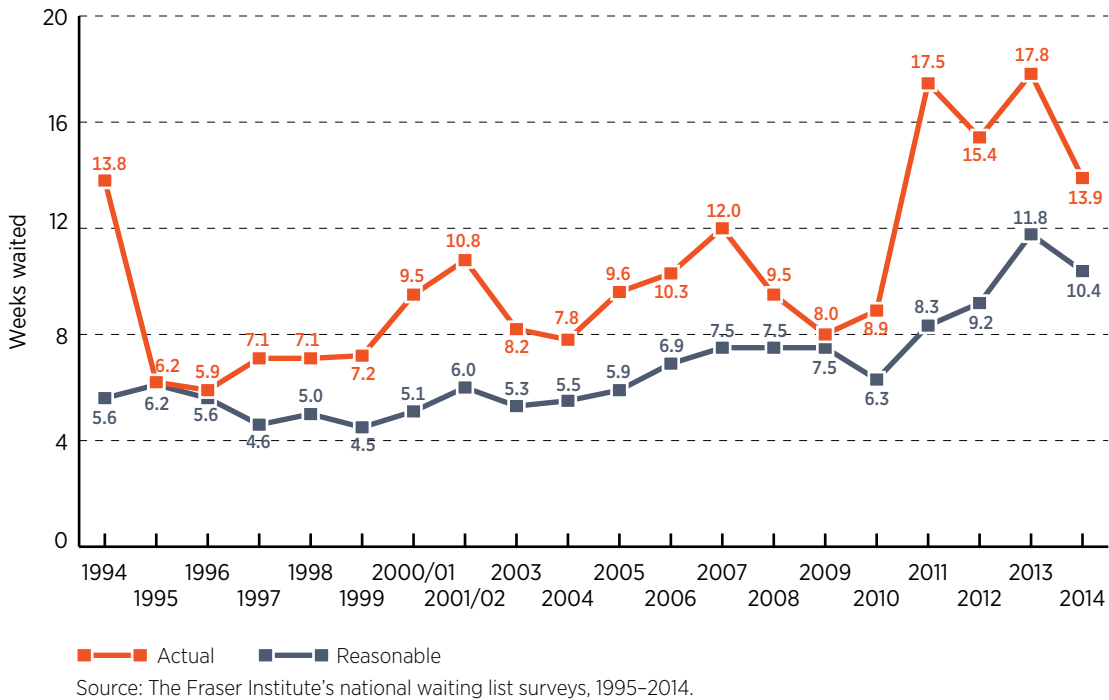
Graph 10: Alberta—actual versus reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2014



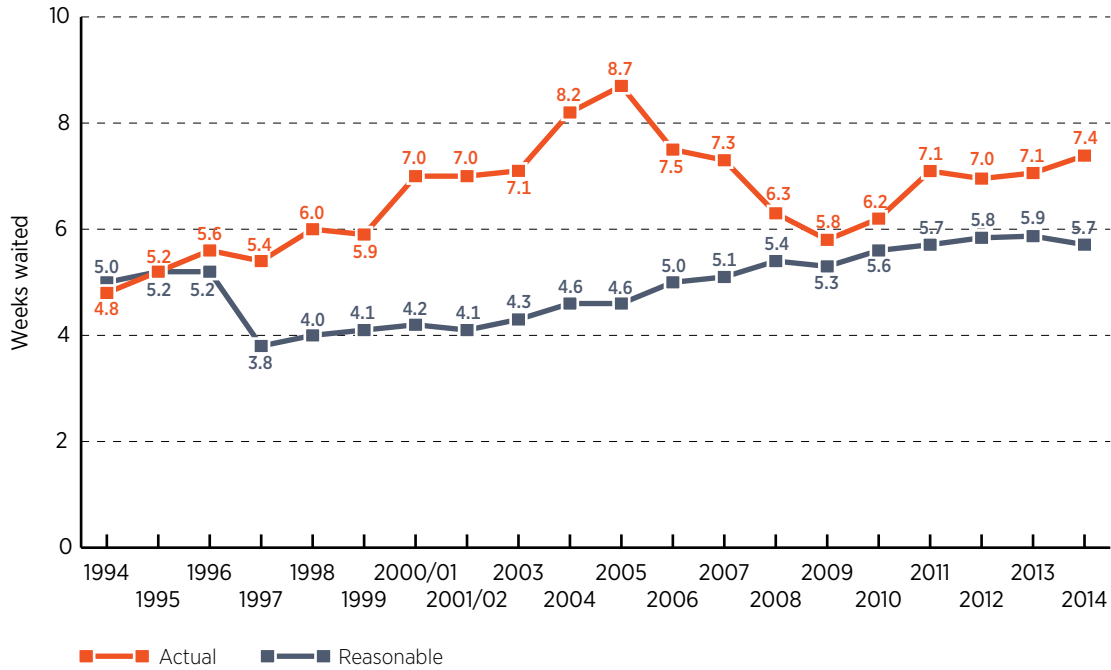
Graph 11: Saskatchewan—actual versus reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2014



Graph 12: Manitoba—actual versus reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2014

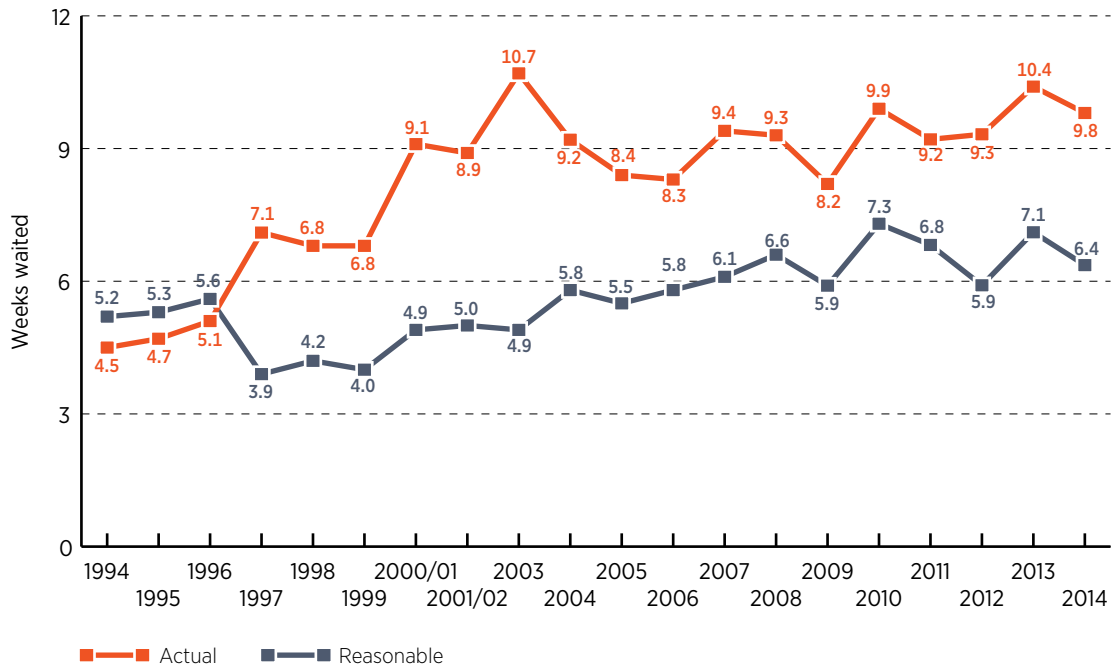


Graph 13: Ontario—actual versus reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2014



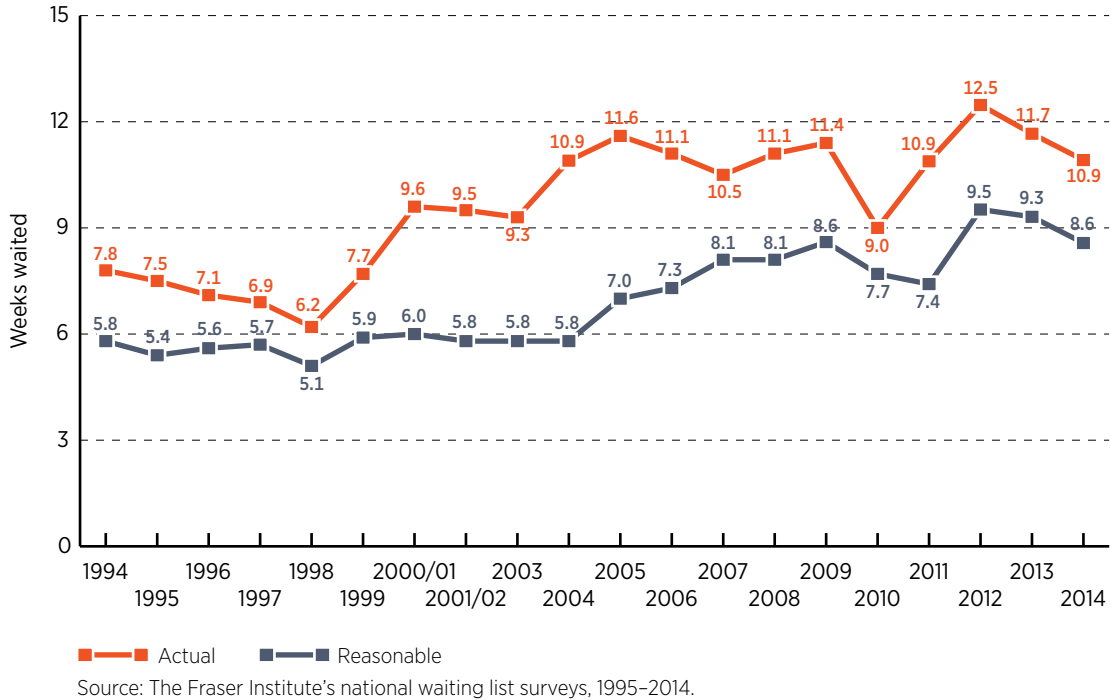
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995-2014.

Graph 14: Quebec—actual versus reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2014

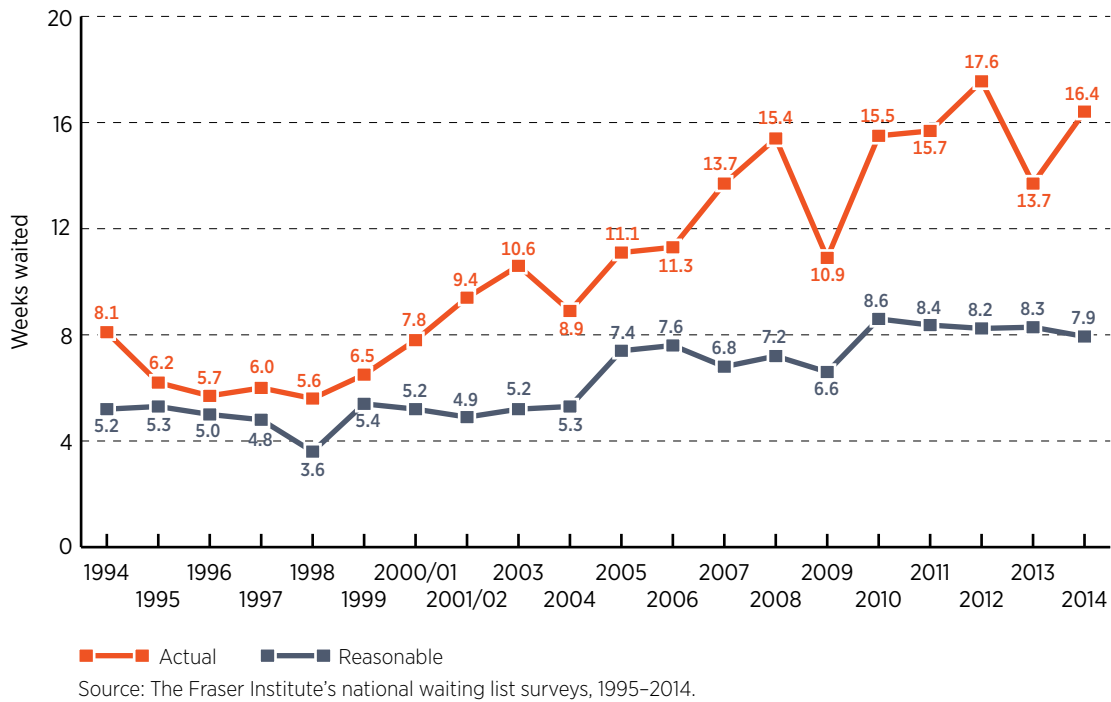


Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995-2014.

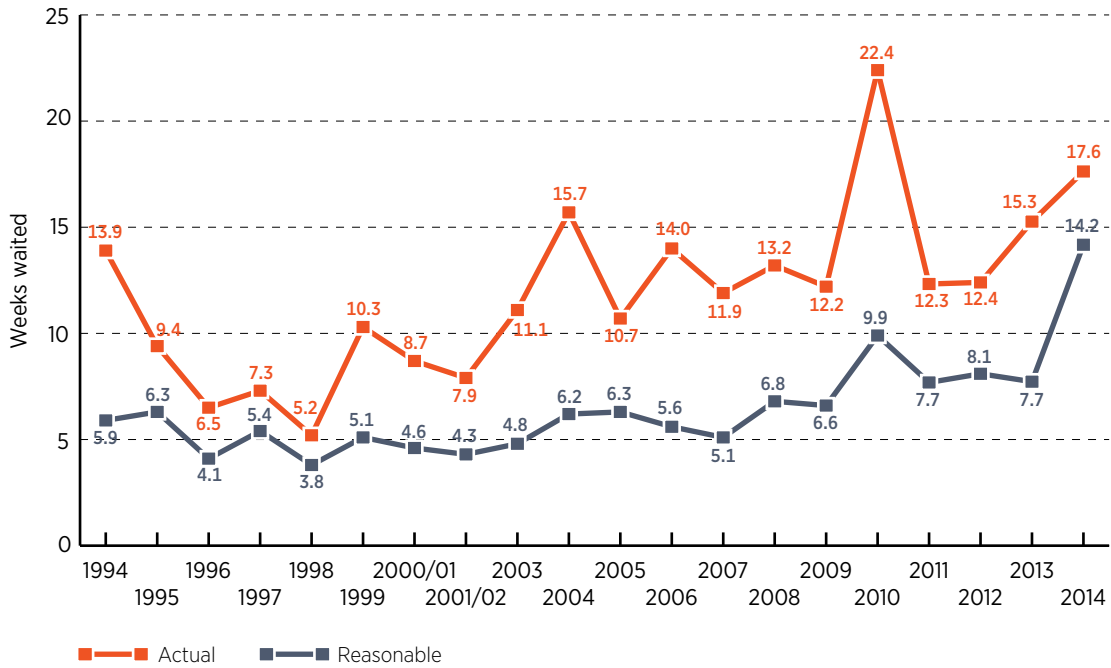
Graph 15: New Brunswick—actual versus reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2014



Graph 16: Nova Scotia—actual versus reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2014

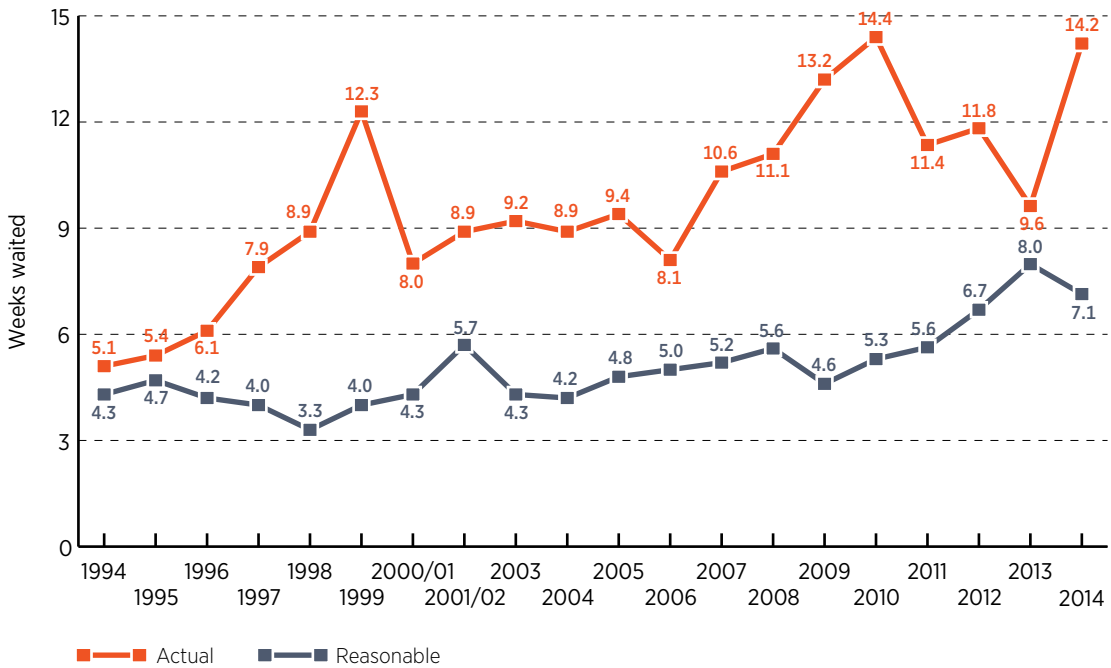


Graph 17: Prince Edward Island—actual versus reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2014



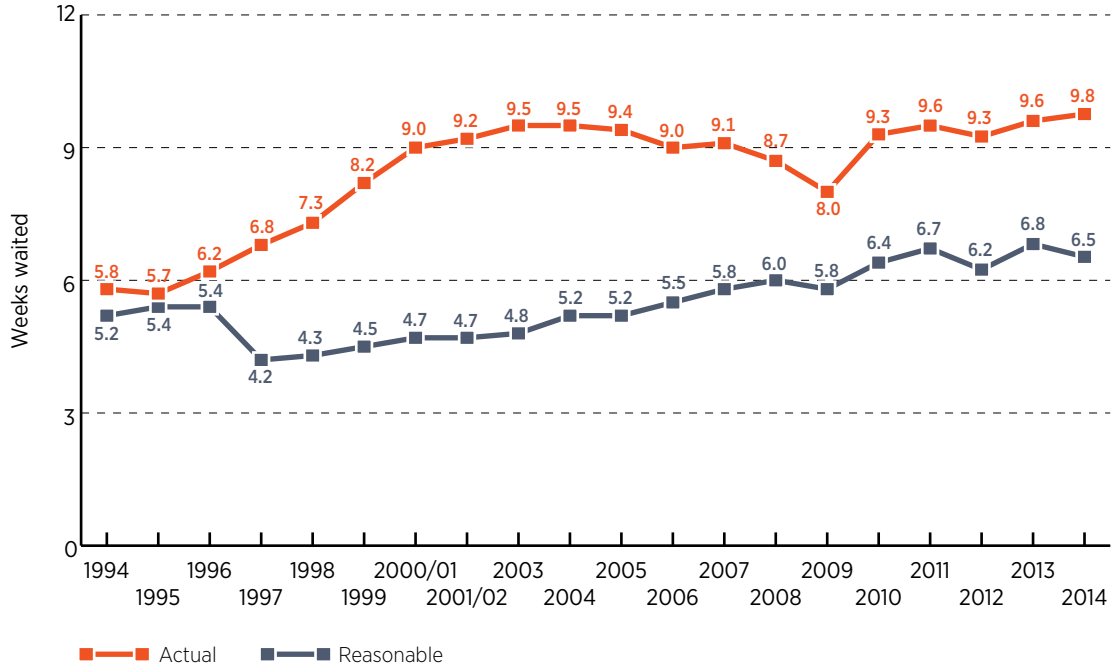
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2014.

Graph 18: Newfoundland & Labrador—actual versus reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2014



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2014.

Graph 19: Canada—actual versus reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2014



Selected tables

Tables 1A–1C: Summary of Responses, 2014

Table 2: Median Total Expected Waiting Time from Referral by GP to Treatment, by Specialty, 2014 (in Weeks)

Table 3: Median Patient Wait to See a Specialist after Referral from a GP, by Specialty, 2014 (in Weeks)

Table 4: Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist, by Specialty 2014 (in Weeks)

Tables 5A–5L: Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks), by Specialty

Table 6: Comparison of Median Weeks Waited to Receive Treatment after Appointment with Specialist, by Selected Specialties, 2013 and 2014

Table 7: Frequency Distribution of Waiting Times (Specialist to Treatment) by Province, 2014—Proportion of Survey Waiting Times that Fall Within Given Ranges

Table 8: Median Reasonable Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist 2014 (in Weeks)

Tables 9A–9L: Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks), by Specialty

Table 10: Comparison between the Median Actual Weeks Waited and the Median Reasonable Number of Weeks to Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist, by Selected Specialties, 2014

Table 11: Average Percentage of Patients Receiving Treatment Outside of Canada, 2014

Table 12: Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist, by Specialty, 2014.

Table 13A–13L: Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist

Table 14: Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist (2014)—Procedures per 100,000 Population

Table 15: Comparison of Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist, by Selected Specialties, 2013 and 2014

Table 16a: Acute Inpatient Procedures 2012-13

Table 16b: Same Day Procedures, 2012-13

Table 1A: Summary of responses, 2014—response rates (percentages)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	25%	38%	33%	33%	18%	19%	23%	50%	100%	60%	23%
Gynaecology	33%	21%	29%	20%	13%	18%	23%	7%	13%	30%	18%
Ophthalmology	21%	34%	33%	21%	15%	20%	53%	17%	17%	38%	20%
Otolaryngology	19%	26%	38%	44%	21%	31%	17%	23%	50%	11%	25%
General Surgery	33%	24%	29%	17%	18%	14%	25%	7%	17%	11%	19%
Neurosurgery	22%	28%	27%	0%	18%	7%	0%	33%	—	0%	17%
Orthopaedic Surgery	22%	23%	33%	21%	18%	24%	63%	28%	40%	20%	22%
Cardiovascular Surgery	30%	21%	0%	20%	18%	11%	11%	71%	—	40%	20%
Urology	29%	22%	33%	20%	17%	38%	36%	22%	100%	40%	25%
Internal Medicine	27%	16%	25%	22%	11%	14%	33%	24%	11%	16%	15%
Radiation Oncology	11%	10%	11%	0%	9%	24%	43%	8%	0%	14%	13%
Medical Oncology	5%	7%	0%	11%	5%	14%	60%	23%	100%	14%	10%
Total	25%	21%	27%	20%	15%	19%	33%	22%	24%	23%	19%

Table 1B: Summary of responses, 2014—number of responses

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	13	12	1	3	30	16	3	6	1	3	88
Gynaecology	53	27	9	10	85	70	7	3	1	8	273
Ophthalmology	28	21	6	4	57	56	9	6	1	5	193
Otolaryngology	12	10	3	7	45	59	2	5	1	1	145
General Surgery	46	23	10	7	100	56	8	3	1	2	256
Neurosurgery	7	9	3	0	15	5	0	3	—	0	42
Orthopaedic Surgery	35	26	9	7	89	69	15	11	2	3	266
Cardiovascular Surgery	13	7	0	2	21	11	1	12	—	2	69
Urology	16	9	1	3	39	54	4	2	1	2	131
Internal Medicine	65	32	10	15	113	61	9	11	1	3	320
Radiation Oncology	8	5	1	0	16	26	3	1	0	1	61
Medical Oncology	4	3	0	1	9	20	3	3	1	1	45
Total	300	184	53	59	619	503	64	66	10	31	1,889

Table 1C: Summary of responses, 2014—number of questionnaires mailed out

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	51	32	3	9	165	84	13	12	1	5	375
Gynaecology	161	129	31	51	659	399	31	43	8	27	1,539
Ophthalmology	134	61	18	19	370	275	17	36	6	13	949
Otolaryngology	62	39	8	16	214	190	12	22	2	9	574
General Surgery	141	94	35	42	544	408	32	42	6	18	1,362
Neurosurgery	32	32	11	8	84	69	4	9	—	3	252
Orthopaedic Surgery	156	113	27	34	498	287	24	39	5	15	1,198
Cardiovascular Surgery	43	34	9	10	116	97	9	17	—	5	340
Urology	56	41	3	15	236	144	11	9	1	5	521
Internal Medicine	238	206	40	68	1,015	446	27	46	9	19	2,114
Radiation Oncology	70	50	9	12	183	108	7	13	2	7	461
Medical Oncology	75	44	1	9	169	144	5	13	1	7	468
Total	1,219	875	195	293	4,253	2,651	192	301	41	133	10,153

Table 2: Median total expected waiting time from referral by gp to treatment, by specialty, 2014 (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	33.1	72.8	21.0	19.5	15.1	17.3	23.6	30.2	21.8	42.0	27.1
Gynaecology	15.5	19.8	11.7	10.1	13.3	13.1	57.6	10.9	64.0	31.8	16.1
Ophthalmology	18.8	18.3	12.2	30.5	19.2	18.1	53.1	23.8	42.0	50.0	19.7
Otolaryngology	25.3	21.1	14.3	17.7	20.2	13.5	36.6	23.1	36.9	—	19.6
General Surgery	14.0	19.3	8.4	14.3	8.3	13.5	16.8	38.5	22.7	—	12.9
Neurosurgery	33.0	42.0	25.4	—	31.3	7.1	—	26.0	—	—	31.2
Orthopaedic Surgery	65.1	52.3	24.4	48.1	33.9	29.7	78.4	82.9	44.3	32.6	42.2
Cardiovascular Surg. (Elec.)	14.6	15.7	—	13.9	6.4	9.9	10.0	10.8	—	13.6	9.9
Urology	13.2	17.5	27.2	8.9	9.6	13.8	19.2	40.5	76.0	18.1	13.2
Internal Medicine	13.4	26.8	10.9	13.8	9.0	22.9	22.7	10.5	—	32.6	15.7
Radiation Oncology	8.8	5.5	2.8	—	3.0	4.8	3.0	8.5	—	3.9	4.2
Medical Oncology	6.0	4.6	—	4.5	2.1	4.2	3.2	5.1	7.0	3.0	3.3
Weighted Median	21.1	25.5	14.2	20.3	14.1	16.9	37.3	32.7	35.9	27.5	18.2

* Totals may not equal the sum of subtotals due to rounding

Table 3: Median patient wait to see a specialist after referral from a GP, by specialty, 2014 (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	12	36	16	12	8	6	12	17	12	14	12.2
Gynaecology	7.0	12.5	2.0	4.3	6.0	6.0	52.0	5.0	56.0	24.0	8.7
Ophthalmology	8.0	8.0	5.0	8.0	8.0	10.0	44.0	11.0	26.0	42.0	9.6
Otolaryngology	6.5	4.0	4.0	10.0	9.0	7.0	26.0	10.0	26.0	3.5	8.2
General Surgery	7.0	8.0	3.3	8.0	4.0	4.0	11.0	26.0	7.0	9.5	5.8
Neurosurgery	16.0	28.0	18.0	—	25.0	3.3	—	12.0	—	—	21.5
Orthopaedic Surgery	30.0	34.2	12.0	5.0	13.3	13.0	52.0	26.0	21.0	14.5	18.9
Cardiovascular Surgery	7.0	8.5	—	2.8	2.5	2.0	4.0	4.0	—	2.3	3.6
Urology	8.0	12.0	26.1	4.0	6.0	8.8	9.0	18.0	38.0	10.0	8.2
Internal Medicine	4.0	3.0	3.0	4.3	4.5	5.0	8.0	6.5	2.0	5.0	4.4
Radiation Oncology	4.5	2.0	1.0	—	1.0	2.0	1.5	4.0	—	1.5	1.7
Medical Oncology	2.3	2.5	—	2.0	1.0	2.0	1.5	3.5	3.0	2.0	1.6
Weighted Median	9.5	12.2	7.1	6.4	6.7	7.1	26.4	16.3	18.2	13.2	8.5

Table 4: Median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist, by specialty 2014 (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	21.1	36.8	5.0	7.5	7.6	11.8	11.6	13.2	9.8	28.0	14.9
Gynaecology	8.5	7.3	9.7	5.9	7.3	7.1	5.6	5.9	8.0	7.8	7.4
Ophthalmology	10.8	10.3	7.2	22.5	11.2	8.1	9.1	12.8	16.0	8.0	10.1
Otolaryngology	18.8	17.1	10.3	7.7	11.2	6.5	10.6	13.1	10.9	—	11.4
General Surgery	7.0	11.3	5.1	6.3	4.3	9.5	5.8	12.5	15.7	—	7.1
Neurosurgery	17.0	14.0	7.4	—	6.3	3.8	—	14.0	—	—	9.6
Orthopaedic Surgery	35.1	18.2	12.4	43.1	20.6	16.7	26.4	56.9	23.3	18.1	23.3
Cardiovascular Surg. (Urg.)	1.7	1.7	—	1.9	1.2	1.5	2.2	1.5	—	1.9	1.4
Cardiovascular Surg. (Elec.)	7.6	7.2	—	11.2	3.9	7.9	6.0	6.8	—	11.4	6.3
Urology	5.2	5.5	1.1	4.9	3.6	5.0	10.2	22.5	38.0	8.1	5.0
Internal Medicine	9.4	23.8	7.9	9.5	4.5	17.9	14.7	4.0	—	27.6	11.3
Radiation Oncology	4.3	3.5	1.8	—	2.0	2.8	1.5	4.5	—	2.4	2.5
Medical Oncology	3.7	2.1	—	2.5	1.1	2.2	1.7	1.6	4.0	1.0	1.7
Weighted Median	11.6	13.4	7.0	13.9	7.4	9.8	10.9	16.4	17.6	14.2	9.8

Table 5A: Plastic surgery (2014)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Mammoplasty	26.0	52.0	5.0	8.0	7.0	16.0	15.0	12.0	8.0	52.0
Neurolysis	18.0	36.0	—	—	9.5	12.0	8.0	4.0	8.0	7.3
Blepharoplasty	18.0	12.0	5.0	8.0	6.5	5.0	15.0	18.0	14.0	28.5
Rhinoplasty	24.0	20.0	5.0	6.0	6.0	5.0	10.0	18.0	14.0	52.0
Scar Revision	15.0	27.0	5.0	6.0	9.0	12.0	8.0	17.0	14.0	5.0
Hand Surgery	12.0	29.5	5.0	9.8	7.5	10.0	6.0	11.0	7.0	2.8
Craniofacial Procedures	0.0	6.0	5.0	—	5.0	9.0	3.0	10.5	3.0	6.8
Skin Cancers and other Tumors	4.0	5.0	5.0	2.0	4.5	4.0	4.0	3.5	5.0	6.5
Weighted Median	21.1	36.8	5.0	7.5	7.6	11.8	11.6	13.2	9.8	28.0

Note: Weighted median does not include craniofacial procedures or skin cancers and other tumors.

Table 5B: Gynaecology (2014)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Dilation & Curettage	6.0	5.5	8.0	5.5	6.0	4.0	1.0	4.0	8.0	7.5
Tubal Ligation	12.0	8.0	10.5	6.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	5.0	8.0	10.0
Hysterectomy (Vaginal/Abdominal)	12.0	8.0	10.5	6.0	8.0	10.0	6.5	8.0	8.0	8.0
Vaginal Repair	12.0	14.0	10.5	6.0	11.5	10.0	6.5	8.0	8.0	7.5
Tuboplasty	9.0	8.0	10.5	7.5	6.5	8.0	5.0	5.0	8.0	14.0
Laparoscopic Procedures	10.5	7.5	10.5	6.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	6.0	8.0	8.0
Hysteroscopic Procedures	6.0	6.0	9.3	6.0	6.5	6.5	6.0	5.0	8.0	7.0
Weighted Median	8.5	7.3	9.7	5.9	7.3	7.1	5.6	5.9	8.0	7.8

Table 5C: Ophthalmology (2014)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cataract Removal	12.0	12.0	8.0	29.0	12.0	8.0	8.5	12.0	16.0	8.0
Cornea Transplant	36.0	57.8	—	—	52.0	8.0	56.0	—	—	—
Cornea—Pterygium	7.0	10.0	—	8.5	12.0	8.0	8.5	11.5	16.0	—
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	8.0	5.0	4.0	2.5	8.0	4.0	56.0	13.0	—	—
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	4.0	4.0	3.5	1.5	4.0	8.0	42.0	14.5	—	—
Lacrimal Duct	8.0	17.0	5.8	—	12.0	12.0	5.0	18.0	—	—
Strabismus	20.0	11.0	8.0	—	16.0	12.0	12.0	26.0	—	—
Operations on Eyelids	6.5	6.0	5.5	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	8.0	—	—
Glaucoma	5.5	4.0	8.5	5.0	6.0	7.0	5.0	7.0	—	4.0
Weighted Median	10.8	10.3	7.2	22.5	11.2	8.1	9.1	12.8	16.0	8.0

Note: Weighted median does not include treatment for glaucoma.

Table 5D: Otolaryngology (2014)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Myringotomy	9.0	9.5	7.0	7.0	6.0	4.0	6.0	8.0	4.0	—
Tympanoplasty	20.0	16.0	13.0	9.5	14.0	8.0	31.0	12.0	16.0	—
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	12.0	26.0	6.0	12.0	8.0	5.5	7.0	17.0	—	—
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	14.0	19.0	13.0	7.0	15.0	7.0	7.0	12.0	16.0	—
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	52.0	19.0	13.0	7.0	12.0	12.0	24.8	20.0	16.0	—
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	20.0	13.5	13.0	7.0	14.0	10.0	18.5	20.0	16.0	—
Weighted Median	18.8	17.1	10.3	7.7	11.2	6.5	10.6	13.1	10.9	

Table 5E: General surgery (2014)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Hernia/Hydrocele	12.0	22.0	6.3	4.0	5.3	9.0	6.0	35.0	7.0	—
Cholecystectomy	6.0	10.5	9.0	3.5	4.8	10.0	7.0	19.0	7.0	—
Colonoscopy	10.0	12.0	4.0	14.0	4.0	16.0	8.0	10.0	32.0	—
Intestinal Operations	4.0	8.0	5.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	5.5	7.0	—
Haemorrhoidectomy	16.0	8.0	6.5	4.0	6.0	8.0	8.0	52.0	7.0	—
Breast Biopsy	3.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	4.0	—	—
Mastectomy	3.0	3.0	2.5	1.0	3.0	3.0	2.5	4.0	7.0	—
Bronchus and Lung	—	3.0	2.5	—	7.0	2.0	3.5	—	7.0	—
Aneurysm Surgery	—	12.0	1.5	—	—	20.0	36.0	—	7.0	—
Varicose Veins	7.0	25.0	6.0	4.0	7.5	20.0	9.0	—	7.0	—
Weighted Median	7.0	11.3	5.1	6.3	4.3	9.5	5.8	12.5	15.7	

Table 5F: Neurosurgery (2014)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Neurolysis	10.0	38.0	12.0	—	7.5	—	—	12.0	—	—
Disc Surgery/ Laminectomy	32.5	24.0	14.0	—	10.0	2.5	—	19.0	—	—
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	8.0	8.0	3.0	—	4.5	—	—	12.0	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	6.5	6.0	8.5	—	8.0	48.0	—	26.0	—	—
Carotid endarterectomy	2.0	4.0	12.0	—	4.0	—	—	26.0	—	—
Weighted Median	17.0	14.0	7.4		6.3	3.8		14.0		

Table 5G: Orthopaedic surgery (2014)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Meniscectomy/Arthroscopy	24.0	11.0	8.0	48.0	12.0	12.0	11.0	33.0	11.8	4.3
Removal of Pins	12.0	9.5	8.0	10.0	16.0	12.0	15.0	42.0	4.5	6.0
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	40.0	24.0	12.0	53.0	22.0	18.0	26.0	65.0	28.5	24.0
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal, Metatarsophalangeal)	36.0	20.0	12.0	6.0	24.0	18.0	30.0	52.0	8.0	—
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	40.0	8.0	9.0	45.0	22.0	14.0	16.0	52.0	10.5	12.0
Digit Neuroma	45.0	9.5	8.0	22.0	16.0	15.0	65.0	56.0	—	—
Rotator Cuff Repair	40.0	12.5	10.0	53.0	14.0	15.0	12.0	49.0	11.5	12.0
Ostectomy (All Types)	24.0	9.0	12.0	5.5	24.0	19.0	16.0	40.0	8.0	1.5
Routine Spinal Instability	37.0	10.5	36.0	—	26.0	21.0	44.0	—	—	18.0
Weighted Median	35.1	18.2	12.4	43.1	20.6	16.7	26.4	56.9	23.3	18.1

Table 5H: Cardiovascular surgery (2014)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Emergent	Coronary Artery Bypass	0.3	0.3	—	0.0	0.2	0.3	—	—	0.5
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	0.2	0.5	—	0.0	0.2	0.3	—	—	0.5
	Aneurysm Surgery	0.8	0.3	—	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3
	Carotid Endarterectomy	1.0	0.5	—	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3
	Pacemaker Operations	0.8	0.5	—	—	0.2	0.0	0.1	—	—
	Weighted Median	0.5	0.5	—	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	—
Urgent	Coronary Artery Bypass	2.0	1.5	—	2.0	1.0	2.5	—	—	2.0
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	1.0	1.5	—	2.0	1.0	2.5	—	—	2.0
	Aneurysm Surgery	2.0	2.0	—	1.5	1.5	0.5	4.0	1.5	1.0
	Carotid Endarterectomy	2.0	1.8	—	1.0	1.5	1.0	4.0	1.5	1.0
	Pacemaker Operations	1.8	2.0	—	—	1.5	0.5	2.0	—	—
	Weighted Median	1.7	1.7	—	1.9	1.2	1.5	2.2	1.5	—
Elective	Coronary Artery Bypass	3.5	6.0	—	12.0	3.0	12.0	—	—	12.0
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	3.5	11.0	—	12.0	3.0	16.0	—	—	12.0
	Aneurysm Surgery	3.5	5.0	—	7.0	8.0	8.0	—	5.5	4.0
	Carotid Endarterectomy	5.3	4.5	—	3.0	8.0	8.0	—	7.0	2.8
	Pacemaker Operations	12.0	5.0	—	—	5.0	2.0	6.0	—	—
	Weighted Median	7.6	7.2	—	11.2	3.9	7.9	6.0	6.8	—

Table 5I: Urology (2014)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Non-radical Prostatectomy	12.0	10.0	4.0	22.0	5.0	12.0	7.5	12.0	—	12.0
Radical Prostatectomy	6.0	5.0	3.0	8.0	6.0	4.0	3.0	6.0	—	6.0
Transurethral Resection—Bladder	4.0	3.0	1.0	7.0	4.0	3.0	7.0	5.0	—	5.0
Radical Cystectomy	4.5	4.0	—	2.5	5.0	3.0	7.0	7.0	—	2.8
Cystoscopy	4.0	3.5	1.0	3.5	3.0	4.5	11.0	28.0	38.0	8.5
Hernia/Hydrocele	12.0	15.0	—	3.5	7.0	12.0	13.0	28.0	—	15.5
Bladder Fulguration	6.0	3.0	—	—	4.5	4.8	9.5	5.0	—	4.0
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	4.0	8.0	—	4.5	5.0	11.0	13.0	12.0	—	12.0
Weighted Median	5.2	5.5	1.1	4.9	3.6	5.0	10.2	22.5	38.0	8.1

Table 5J: Internal medicine (2014) — median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Colonoscopy	12.0	28.0	8.0	8.5	5.3	22.0	24.0	4.0	—	30.5
Angiography/ Angioplasty	3.0	13.0	8.0	12.0	2.0	4.0	8.0	2.0	—	—
Bronchoscopy	1.5	4.0	7.0	10.0	3.0	1.3	12.0	4.0	—	2.0
Gastroscopy	3.0	18.0	6.0	12.0	4.0	26.0	24.0	12.0	—	3.0
Weighted Median	9.4	23.8	7.9	9.5	4.5	17.9	14.7	4.0		27.6

Table 5K: Radiation Oncology (2014) — Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cancer of The Larynx	2.5	2.0	1.5	—	1.5	1.8	1.5	3.0	—	—
Cancer of The Cervix	2.0	2.5	1.0	—	2.0	2.0	1.5	3.0	—	—
Lung Cancer	3.0	2.8	1.5	—	2.0	2.0	1.5	4.0	—	—
Prostate Cancer	4.0	5.0	2.5	—	2.0	3.5	1.5	6.0	—	2.4
Breast Cancer	6.0	3.0	1.5	—	2.0	3.5	1.5	4.0	—	—
Early Side Effects from Treatment	2.0	2.0	7.0	—	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.0	—	—
Late Side Effects from Treatment	2.5	4.0	18.0	—	2.0	1.5	0.5	4.0	—	—
Weighted Median	4.3	3.5	1.8		2.0	2.8	1.5	4.5		2.4

Note: Weighted median does not include early or late side effects from treatment.

Table 5L: Medical oncology (2014)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cancer of the Larynx	—	2.0	—	2.0	1.0	1.9	2.0	2.0	4.0	—
Cancer of the Cervix	3.0	2.3	—	—	1.0	2.0	1.8	2.0	4.0	—
Lung Cancer	5.0	2.0	—	—	1.3	2.0	1.8	2.0	4.0	—
Breast Cancer	2.5	2.3	—	2.5	1.0	2.5	1.5	1.0	4.0	1.0
Side Effects from Treatment	1.5	1.0	—	1.5	0.5	0.8	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.0
Weighted Median	3.7	2.1		2.5	1.1	2.2	1.7	1.6	4.0	1.0

Note: Weighted median does not include side effects from treatment.

Table 6: Comparison of median weeks waited to receive treatment after appointment with specialist, by selected specialties, 2013 and 2014

Procedure	British Columbia			Alberta			Saskatchewan			Manitoba			Ontario		
	2014	2013	% chg	2014	2013	% chg	2014	2013	% chg	2014	2013	% chg	2014	2013	% chg
Plastic Surgery	21.1	22.3	-5%	36.8	27.6	33%	5.0	85.7	-94%	7.5	3.0	149%	7.6	7.8	-3%
Gynaecology	8.5	8.0	7%	7.3	8.2	-11%	9.7	8.7	12%	5.9	7.5	-21%	7.3	7.7	-5%
Ophthalmology	10.8	13.0	-17%	10.3	13.3	-23%	7.2	11.2	-35%	22.5	44.6	-50%	11.2	8.4	33%
Otolaryngology	18.8	18.4	2%	17.1	10.4	65%	10.3	-	-	7.7	8.3	-7%	11.2	9.9	13%
General Surgery	7.0	6.6	5%	11.3	7.8	45%	5.1	15.0	-66%	6.3	15.3	-59%	4.3	4.8	-10%
Neurosurgery	17.0	8.3	104%	14.0	10.0	40%	7.4	12.1	-39%	-	-	-	6.3	7.7	-18%
Orthopaedic Surgery	35.1	22.5	56%	18.2	16.3	12%	12.4	36.1	-66%	43.1	23.1	87%	20.6	18.9	9%
Cardiovascular Surgery (Urgent)	1.7	2.0	-17%	1.7	0.5	242%	-	1.0	-	1.9	-	-	1.2	0.9	40%
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	7.6	6.0	27%	7.2	6.0	20%	-	4.1	-	11.2	-	-	3.9	3.3	18%
Urology	5.2	6.9	-24%	5.5	5.2	6%	1.1	4.6	-76%	4.9	9.2	-47%	3.6	4.4	-18%
Internal Medicine	9.4	8.5	11%	23.8	10.2	135%	7.9	8.3	-5%	9.5	8.6	10%	4.5	4.6	-2%
Radiation Oncology	4.3	2.2	97%	3.5	3.2	10%	1.8	2.1	-15%	-	1.8	-	2.0	1.3	50%
Medical Oncology	3.7	2.3	63%	2.1	3.3	-35%	-	-	-	2.5	-	-	1.1	1.8	-39%
Weighted Median	11.6	10.4	11%	13.4	10.5	27%	7.0	14.1	-50%	13.9	17.8	-22%	7.4	7.1	5%

Note: Percentage changes are calculated from exact weighted medians. The exact weighted medians have been rounded to one decimal place for inclusion in the table.

Table 6, continued: Comparison of median weeks waited to receive treatment after appointment with specialist, by selected specialties, 2013 and 2014

Procedure	Quebec			New Brunswick			Nova Scotia			Prince Edward Island			Newfoundland		
	2014	2013	% chg	2014	2013	% chg	2014	2013	% chg	2014	2013	% chg	2014	2013	% chg
Plastic Surgery	11.8	8.3	43%	11.6	21.2	-45%	13.2	22.0	-40%	9.8	—	—	28.0	10.3	171%
Gynaecology	7.1	7.7	-8%	5.6	9.7	-43%	5.9	5.7	4%	8.0	—	—	7.8	9.3	-17%
Ophthalmology	8.1	7.7	4%	9.1	8.1	12%	12.8	23.8	-46%	16.0	34.0	-53%	8.0	6.9	16%
Otolaryngology	6.5	8.5	-23%	10.6	7.3	46%	13.1	12.5	5%	10.9	9.9	10%	—	6.0	—
General Surgery	9.5	7.7	24%	5.8	7.6	-23%	12.5	6.7	88%	15.7	7.0	124%	—	7.1	—
Neurosurgery	3.8	5.1	-25%	—	—	—	14.0	3.1	356%	—	—	—	—	2.9	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	16.7	18.6	-10%	26.4	28.5	-7%	56.9	44.3	28%	23.3	22.6	3%	18.1	31.5	-43%
Cardiovascular Surgery (Urgent)	1.5	0.5	188%	2.2	0.9	155%	1.5	4.3	-65%	—	—	—	1.9	—	—
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	7.9	7.9	0%	6.0	6.1	-2%	6.8	26.5	-74%	—	—	—	11.4	—	—
Urology	5.0	11.1	-55%	10.2	12.5	-18%	22.5	4.2	438%	38.0	16.8	126%	8.1	10.1	-21%
Internal Medicine	17.9	21.3	-16%	14.7	8.7	69%	4.0	6.1	-34%	—	11.0	—	27.6	—	—
Radiation Oncology	2.8	2.6	7%	1.5	0.5	200%	4.5	5.2	-12%	—	—	—	2.4	2.0	22%
Medical Oncology	2.2	2.0	11%	1.7	2.0	-18%	1.6	5.1	-69%	4.0	3.0	32%	1.0	1.7	-41%
Weighted Median	9.8	10.4	-6%	10.9	11.7	-6%	16.4	13.7	20%	17.6	15.3	15%	14.2	9.6	48%

Note: Percentage changes are calculated from exact weighted medians. The exact weighted medians have been rounded to one decimal place for

Table 7: Frequency distribution of waiting times (specialist to treatment) by province, 2014—proportion of survey waiting times that fall within given ranges

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
0–3.99 Weeks	24.0%	22.2%	19.5%	20.1%	26.6%	26.3%	26.4%	17.9%	4.1%	25.7%
4–7.99 Weeks	22.6%	23.8%	27.0%	44.3%	29.1%	23.3%	19.9%	22.4%	36.7%	31.0%
8–12.99 Weeks	19.0%	21.3%	34.5%	18.1%	20.8%	26.0%	26.1%	18.4%	30.6%	24.8%
13–25.99 Weeks	13.3%	15.5%	12.0%	10.7%	13.3%	16.7%	11.9%	16.1%	22.4%	11.5%
26–51.99 Weeks	10.8%	11.6%	3.0%	2.7%	6.5%	5.3%	10.3%	11.2%	6.1%	1.8%
1 year plus	10.2%	5.6%	4.0%	4.0%	3.7%	2.3%	5.4%	13.9%	0.0%	5.3%

Note: Columns do not necessarily sum to 100 due to rounding

Table 8: Median reasonable patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist 2014 (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	21.2	17.9	—	—	8.7	5.3	8.7	20.0	—	32.8	12.1
Gynaecology	7.8	8.7	10.6	5.0	6.4	8.0	4.4	6.0	11.0	10.4	7.4
Ophthalmology	11.6	7.2	—	9.4	7.9	8.4	11.9	12.2	12.0	6.0	8.6
Otolaryngology	11.1	9.4	14.1	7.1	7.6	6.2	14.9	7.7	4.0	—	8.3
General Surgery	5.1	5.3	4.1	5.9	4.6	5.0	5.4	4.9	—	—	4.9
Neurosurgery	6.8	5.8	4.9	—	4.2	—	—	13.8	—	—	5.4
Orthopaedic Surgery	10.2	10.2	9.3	38.9	11.2	12.7	12.8	18.8	21.2	—	12.7
Cardiovascular Surg. (Urg.)	2.4	2.0	—	2.0	1.3	1.5	—	1.3	—	1.9	1.6
Cardiovascular Surg. (Elec.)	6.9	7.6	—	6.0	2.3	8.8	—	6.5	—	5.8	5.1
Urology	2.7	8.2	—	—	4.1	4.0	4.3	5.4	—	3.0	4.2
Internal Medicine	3.5	9.8	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.9	7.0	2.0	—	7.5	4.2
Radiation Oncology	3.0	2.8	1.2	—	3.6	3.3	—	2.6	—	—	3.3
Medical Oncology	1.8	2.0	—	3.0	2.5	2.0	5.6	4.7	4.0	1.0	2.4
Weighted Median	6.8	8.0	6.2	10.4	5.7	6.4	8.6	7.9	14.2	7.1	6.5

Table 9A: Plastic surgery (2014)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Mammoplasty	25.0	26.0	—	—	9.5	4.0	9.0	24.0	—	52.0
Neurolysis	6.0	6.0	—	—	8.0	6.0	7.0	6.0	—	4.0
Blepharoplasty	12.0	16.0	—	—	7.0	7.0	9.0	24.0	—	52.0
Rhinoplasty	25.0	16.0	—	—	8.0	—	12.0	24.0	—	52.0
Scar Revision	26.0	12.0	—	—	11.0	6.0	8.0	24.0	—	52.0
Hand Surgery	12.0	8.0	—	—	6.0	5.0	7.0	12.0	—	3.0
Craniofacial Procedures	12.5	5.5	—	—	4.0	7.5	5.0	24.0	—	1.0
Skin Cancers and other Tumors	4.0	3.0	—	—	4.0	5.0	2.5	3.8	—	2.0
Weighted Median	21.2	17.9			8.7	5.3	8.7	20.0		32.8

Note: Weighted median does not include craniofacial procedures or skin cancers and other tumors.

Table 9B: Gynaecology (2014)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Dilation & Curettage	4.0	6.0	7.0	5.0	4.0	4.0	1.0	4.0	11.0	9.0
Tubal Ligation	12.0	8.0	12.0	5.0	8.0	12.0	6.0	6.0	—	10.5
Hysterectomy (Vaginal/Abdominal)	12.0	12.0	12.0	5.0	8.0	9.0	6.0	7.0	—	14.0
Vaginal Repair	12.0	12.0	12.0	4.5	8.0	8.0	6.0	7.0	—	15.0
Tuboplasty	12.0	10.0	16.0	8.0	8.0	10.0	6.0	7.0	—	24.0
Laparoscopic Procedures	8.0	9.0	11.0	6.0	7.0	9.0	4.0	7.0	—	12.0
Hysteroscopic Procedures	6.0	8.0	10.0	5.0	6.0	9.0	4.0	6.0	—	9.0
Weighted Median	7.8	8.7	10.6	5.0	6.4	8.0	4.4	6.0	11.0	10.4

Table 9C: Ophthalmology (2014)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cataract Removal	12.0	8.0	—	12.0	8.0	8.0	12.0	13.5	12.0	6.0
Cornea Transplant	12.0	13.0	—	5.0	12.0	21.0	12.0	45.0	—	—
Cornea—Pterygium	12.0	10.0	—	5.0	12.0	10.0	12.0	15.5	12.0	—
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	6.0	6.0	—	3.8	12.0	8.0	12.0	12.0	—	—
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	—	2.5	—	1.5	4.0	9.0	12.0	2.8	—	—
Lacrimal Duct	10.0	10.5	—	5.0	12.0	12.0	8.5	20.0	—	—
Strabismus	10.0	19.0	—	5.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	18.0	—	—
Operations on Eyelids	8.0	7.0	—	5.5	11.0	10.0	12.0	18.0	—	—
Glaucoma	4.0	4.0	—	3.3	4.0	4.0	8.0	7.0	—	—
Weighted Median	11.6	7.2		9.4	7.9	8.4	11.9	12.2	12.0	6.0

Note: Weighted median does not include treatment for glaucoma.

Table 9D: Otolaryngology (2014)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Myringotomy	12.0	9.0	8.0	7.0	4.5	3.5	12.0	5.0	4.0	—
Tympanoplasty	24.0	12.0	19.0	7.0	8.0	7.5	24.0	8.0	4.0	—
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	8.0	6.0	6.0	8.0	5.5	7.0	12.0	10.0	—	—
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	12.0	10.0	19.0	7.0	8.0	8.0	12.0	8.0	4.0	—
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	9.0	12.0	19.0	7.0	12.0	8.0	24.0	9.0	4.0	—
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	10.0	10.0	19.0	7.0	12.0	8.0	24.0	10.3	4.0	—
Weighted Median	11.1	9.4	14.1	7.1	7.6	6.2	14.9	7.7	4.0	

Table 9E: General surgery (2014)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Hernia/Hydrocele	7.0	12.0	6.0	7.0	6.5	9.0	8.0	9.0	—	—
Cholecystectomy	6.0	7.0	6.0	7.0	6.0	8.0	6.0	4.5	—	—
Colonoscopy	7.0	2.0	4.0	7.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	6.0	—	—
Intestinal Operations	3.0	4.0	3.0	5.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	—	—
Haemorrhoidectomy	12.0	6.0	6.0	5.0	8.0	12.0	8.0	12.0	—	—
Breast Biopsy	3.0	4.0	3.0	1.5	2.0	4.0	2.0	2.0	—	—
Mastectomy	3.0	3.0	3.0	1.5	3.0	4.0	2.0	2.0	—	—
Bronchus and Lung	—	—	4.0	—	5.0	4.0	3.0	—	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	—	—	3.0	—	7.3	8.0	12.0	—	—	—
Varicose Veins	11.0	12.0	6.0	4.0	10.0	12.0	12.0	—	—	—
Weighted Median	5.1	5.3	4.1	5.9	4.6	5.0	5.4	4.9		

Table 9F: Neurosurgery (2014)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Peripheral Nerve	6.0	5.0	7.5	—	4.0	—	—	16.0	—	—
Disc Surgery/ Laminectomy	9.0	12.0	8.5	—	5.0	—	—	18.0	—	—
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	5.5	4.0	2.5	—	4.0	—	—	12.0	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	6.0	7.5	3.0	—	3.0	—	—	12.0	—	—
Carotid endarterectomy	4.0	4.0	6.0	—	1.3	—	—	16.0	—	—
Weighted Median	6.8	5.8	4.9		4.2			13.8		

Table 9G: Orthopaedic surgery (2014)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Meniscectomy/Arthroscopy	6.0	6.0	6.0	23.0	6.0	12.0	12.0	8.0	10.0	—
Removal of Pins	8.0	9.5	12.0	25.0	8.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	4.0	—
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	12.0	12.0	10.0	33.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	22.0	26.0	—
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal, Metatarsophalangeal)	7.0	9.0	8.0	52.0	11.0	12.0	12.0	24.0	—	—
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	11.0	12.0	8.0	35.0	12.0	23.0	16.0	14.0	12.0	—
Digit Neuroma	7.5	9.0	8.0	52.0	12.0	18.0	—	12.0	—	—
Rotator Cuff Repair	10.0	6.5	6.0	63.0	9.0	12.0	9.0	15.0	5.0	—
Ostectomy (All Types)	8.0	9.5	7.0	52.0	12.0	12.0	18.0	19.0	6.0	—
Routine Spinal Instability	12.0	6.0	8.0	100.0	12.0	12.0	17.0	—	—	—
Weighted Median	10.2	10.2	9.3	38.9	11.2	12.7	12.8	18.8	21.2	

Table 9H: Cardiovascular surgery (2014)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Emergent	Coronary Artery Bypass	1.0	—	—	0.0	1.0	0.3	—	—	0.5
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	—	0.5	—	0.0	1.0	0.3	—	—	0.5
	Aneurysm Surgery	1.0	0.5	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.1	0.5
	Carotid Endarterectomy	1.3	1.0	—	—	0.0	0.0	—	0.1	0.5
	Pacemaker Operations	0.3	0.5	—	—	0.1	—	—	—	—
	Weighted Median	0.6	0.5	—	0.0	0.7	0.2	—	0.1	—
Urgent	Coronary Artery Bypass	4.0	—	—	2.0	2.0	1.5	—	—	2.0
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	—	2.0	—	2.0	2.0	1.5	—	—	2.0
	Aneurysm Surgery	2.8	2.5	—	2.0	0.5	0.5	—	1.3	1.0
	Carotid Endarterectomy	2.5	3.0	—	—	0.0	1.0	—	1.3	1.0
	Pacemaker Operations	1.5	2.0	—	—	0.2	—	—	—	—
	Weighted Median	2.4	2.0	—	2.0	1.3	1.5	—	1.3	—
Elective	Coronary Artery Bypass	14.0	—	—	6.0	3.0	9.0	—	—	6.0
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	—	12.0	—	6.0	3.0	9.0	—	—	6.0
	Aneurysm Surgery	7.5	9.0	—	6.0	3.5	8.0	—	6.5	2.0
	Carotid Endarterectomy	9.5	7.0	—	—	3.0	6.0	—	6.5	3.0
	Pacemaker Operations	3.0	4.0	—	—	1.0	—	—	—	—
	Weighted Median	6.9	7.6	—	6.0	2.3	8.8	—	6.5	—

Table 9I: Urology (2014)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Non-radical Prostatectomy	5.0	8.0	—	—	6.0	5.0	4.5	8.0	—	16.0
Radical Prostatectomy	4.0	6.0	—	—	6.0	4.0	3.8	5.5	—	6.0
Transurethral Resection—Bladder	2.5	3.5	—	—	4.0	2.5	3.5	3.5	—	2.0
Radical Cystectomy	2.0	6.0	—	—	4.0	3.0	4.5	5.5	—	2.0
Cystoscopy	2.0	8.0	—	—	3.8	4.0	4.0	5.5	—	2.0
Hernia/Hydrocele	7.0	12.0	—	—	7.0	8.0	7.5	10.0	—	16.0
Bladder Fulguration	2.5	—	—	—	4.0	3.0	3.5	4.0	—	4.0
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	—	—	—	—	11.0	4.0	7.5	6.0	—	16.0
Weighted Median	2.7	8.2			4.1	4.0	4.3	5.4		3.0

Table 9J: Internal medicine (2014)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Colonoscopy	4.0	12.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	11.0	2.0	—	8.0
Angiography/ Angioplasty	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.5	2.0	4.0	4.0	2.0	—	—
Bronchoscopy	2.0	3.3	4.0	2.5	2.0	2.0	7.0	2.0	—	2.0
Gastroscopy	3.0	3.3	4.0	4.0	3.0	4.0	11.0	2.0	—	4.0
Weighted Median	3.5	9.8	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.9	7.0	2.0		7.5

Table 9K: Radiation oncology (2014)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cancer of The Larynx	2.0	1.8	1.5	—	2.0	2.0	—	2.0	—	—
Cancer of The Cervix	2.0	1.5	1.0	—	2.0	2.0	—	2.0	—	—
Lung Cancer	2.0	2.0	—	—	2.3	2.5	—	2.0	—	—
Prostate Cancer	3.0	3.5	—	—	4.5	4.0	—	4.0	—	—
Breast Cancer	4.0	3.0	—	—	4.0	4.0	—	2.0	—	—
Early Side Effects from Treatment	1.0	1.5	—	—	1.0	0.4	—	0.0	—	—
Late Side Effects from Treatment	2.0	3.0	—	—	2.0	1.5	—	2.0	—	—
Weighted Median	3.0	2.8	1.2		3.6	3.3		2.6		

Note: Weighted median does not include early or late side effects from treatment.

Table 9L: Medical oncology (2014)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cancer of the Larynx	—	2.0	—	4.0	2.5	2.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	—
Cancer of the Cervix	4.0	—	—	—	2.5	2.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	—
Lung Cancer	2.0	2.0	—	—	2.5	2.0	4.0	5.3	4.0	—
Breast Cancer	1.5	—	—	3.0	2.5	2.0	8.0	4.0	4.0	1.0
Side Effects from Treatment	1.0	0.5	—	1.0	0.5	0.5	—	0.6	—	0.0
Weighted Median	1.8	2.0		3.0	2.5	2.0	5.6	4.7	4.0	1.0

Note: Weighted median does not include side effects from treatment.

Table 10: Comparison between the median actual weeks waited and the median reasonable number of weeks to wait for treatment after appointment with specialist, by selected specialties, 2014

Procedure	BC			AB			SK			MB			ON		
	A	R	D	A	R	D	A	R	D	A	R	D	A	R	D
Plastic Surgery	21.1	21.2	0%	36.8	17.9	106%	5.0	-	-	7.5	-	-	7.6	8.7	-12%
Gynaecology	8.5	7.8	10%	7.3	8.7	-16%	9.7	10.6	-8%	5.9	5.0	17%	7.3	6.4	14%
Ophthalmology	10.8	11.6	-7%	10.3	7.2	43%	7.2	-	-	22.5	9.4	139%	11.2	7.9	41%
Otolaryngology	18.8	11.1	68%	17.1	9.4	81%	10.3	14.1	-27%	7.7	7.1	8%	11.2	7.6	47%
General Surgery	7.0	5.1	36%	11.3	5.3	111%	5.1	4.1	25%	6.3	5.9	8%	4.3	4.6	-7%
Neurosurgery	17.0	6.8	150%	14.0	5.8	141%	7.4	4.9	52%	-	-	-	6.3	4.2	50%
Orthopaedic Surgery	35.1	10.2	243%	18.2	10.2	78%	12.4	9.3	34%	43.1	38.9	11%	20.6	11.2	84%
Cardiovascular Surgery (Urgent)	1.7	2.4	-30%	1.7	2.0	-16%	-	-	-	1.9	2.0	-5%	1.2	1.3	-7%
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	7.6	6.9	10%	7.2	7.6	-5%	-	-	-	11.2	6.0	86%	3.9	2.3	70%
Urology	5.2	2.7	96%	5.5	8.2	-33%	1.1	-	-	4.9	-	-	3.6	4.1	-12%
Internal Medicine	9.4	3.5	171%	23.8	9.8	142%	7.9	3.6	120%	9.5	3.6	167%	4.5	3.5	29%
Radiation Oncology	4.3	3.0	43%	3.5	2.8	27%	1.8	1.2	49%	-	-	-	2.0	3.6	-44%
Medical Oncology	3.7	1.8	105%	2.1	2.0	6%	-	-	-	2.5	3.0	-18%	1.1	2.5	-55%
Weighted Median	11.6	6.8	71%	13.4	8.0	67%	7.0	6.2	13%	13.9	10.4	34%	7.4	5.7	29%

Note: Percentage changes are calculated from exact weighted medians. The exact weighted medians have been rounded to one decimal place for inclusion in the table.

Table 10, continued: Comparison between the median actual weeks waited and the median reasonable number of weeks to wait for treatment after appointment with specialist, by selected specialties, 2014

Procedure	QC			NB			NS			PE			NF		
	A	R	D	A	R	D	A	R	D	A	R	D	A	R	D
Plastic Surgery	11.8	5.3	125%	11.6	8.7	33%	13.2	20.0	-34%	9.8	-	-	28.0	32.8	-15%
Gynaecology	7.1	8.0	-10%	5.6	4.4	26%	5.9	6.0	-1%	8.0	11.0	-27%	7.8	10.4	-25%
Ophthalmology	8.1	8.4	-3%	9.1	11.9	-24%	12.8	12.2	5%	16.0	12.0	33%	8.0	6.0	33%
Otolaryngology	6.5	6.2	6%	10.6	14.9	-29%	13.1	7.7	71%	10.9	4.0	172%	-	-	-
General Surgery	9.5	5.0	91%	5.8	5.4	7%	12.5	4.9	156%	15.7	-	-	-	-	-
Neurosurgery	3.8	-	-	-	-	-	14.0	13.8	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-
Orthopaedic Surgery	16.7	12.7	32%	26.4	12.8	106%	56.9	18.8	203%	23.3	21.2	10%	18.1	-	-
Cardiovascular Surgery (Urgent)	1.5	1.5	1%	2.2	-	-	1.5	1.3	20%	-	-	-	1.9	1.9	0%
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	7.9	8.8	-11%	6.0	-	-	6.8	6.5	4%	-	-	-	11.4	5.8	97%
Urology	5.0	4.0	25%	10.2	4.3	135%	22.5	5.4	315%	38.0	-	-	8.1	3.0	168%
Internal Medicine	17.9	3.9	357%	14.7	7.0	109%	4.0	2.0	102%	-	-	-	27.6	7.5	270%
Radiation Oncology	2.8	3.3	-15%	1.5	-	-	4.5	2.6	77%	-	-	-	2.4	-	-
Medical Oncology	2.2	2.0	10%	1.7	5.6	-70%	1.6	4.7	-66%	4.0	4.0	0%	1.0	1.0	0%
Weighted Median	9.8	6.4	54%	10.9	8.6	27%	16.4	7.9	107%	17.6	14.2	24%	14.2	7.1	99%

Note: Percentage changes are calculated from exact weighted medians. The exact weighted medians have been rounded to one decimal place for inclusion in the table.

Table 11: Average percentage of patients receiving treatment outside Canada, 2014

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	0.0%	2.0%	—	—	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
Gynaecology	4.6%	3.1%	0.5%	0.2%	0.8%	0.5%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	1.4%
Ophthalmology	0.7%	0.4%	—	—	0.9%	1.2%	0.7%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%
Otolaryngology	0.7%	1.0%	0.0%	3.3%	1.4%	0.2%	0.0%	1.5%	0.0%	—	1.1%
General Surgery	0.4%	1.3%	0.2%	—	0.7%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	0.5%
Neurosurgery	5.4%	0.3%	3.0%	—	3.3%	—	—	0.0%	—	—	2.6%
Orthopaedic Surgery	0.5%	2.1%	1.7%	0.0%	1.0%	0.1%	0.8%	1.4%	1.5%	0.5%	0.9%
Cardiovascular Surgery	3.7%	0.3%	—	0.0%	0.8%	1.7%	—	0.0%	—	—	1.3%
Urology	3.7%	0.3%	—	—	1.9%	0.3%	5.0%	3.0%	—	—	1.8%
Internal Medicine	1.2%	0.8%	0.0%	0.5%	3.3%	0.4%	0.3%	0.0%	—	0.0%	1.8%
Radiation Oncology	1.6%	1.8%	5.0%	—	0.5%	1.2%	—	0.0%	—	—	1.2%
Medical Oncology	2.4%	0.5%	—	5.0%	0.5%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%
All Specialties	1.6%	1.5%	0.9%	1.0%	1.3%	0.5%	0.8%	0.6%	0.4%	0.5%	1.1%

Table 12: Estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist, by specialty, 2014.

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Plastic Surgery	3,278	4,855	82	234	3,034	2,497	397	347	26	574
Gynaecology	3,379	2,978	1,276	723	8,610	4,853	484	614	144	750
Ophthalmology	13,709	10,777	2,299	6,294	36,407	30,646	1,419	4,446	394	798
Otolaryngology	5,238	4,312	1,017	683	11,628	3,949	923	1,067	108	0
General Surgery	12,816	11,775	2,887	3,413	22,954	35,937	1,151	6,137	980	0
Neurosurgery	2,453	1,429	273	0	2,406	173	0	340	0	0
Orthopaedic Surgery	27,150	11,102	2,777	9,584	46,056	18,791	3,780	9,356	629	1,190
Cardiovascular Surgery	312	188	0	49	560	607	42	3	0	20
Urology	4,956	2,580	199	502	13,003	7,637	1,240	4,706	547	1,184
Internal Medicine	11,089	16,589	2,259	3,499	13,212	37,333	966	942	0	4,158
Radiation Oncology	66	57	8	0	208	164	30	33	0	6
Medical Oncology	185	111	0	35	355	381	30	29	7	17
Residual	59,559	52,452	10,020	19,533	122,186	86,447	8,104	21,775	2,141	14,235
Total	144,189	119,204	23,098	44,549	280,621	229,415	18,565	49,795	4,976	22,932
Proportion of Population	3.15%	2.96%	2.08%	3.52%	2.07%	2.81%	2.46%	5.29%	3.43%	4.35%

Canada: Total number of procedures for which patients are waiting in 2014: 937,345

Percentage of Population: 2.69%

Notes: Totals may not match sums of numbers for individual procedures due to rounding. • All data regarding oncology refer only to procedures done in hospitals. Most cancer patients are treated in cancer agencies. Therefore, the oncology data must be regarded as incomplete.

Table 13A: Plastic surgery (2014)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Mammoplasty	1,720	2,914	36	116	1,155	958	248	94	8	433
Neurolysis	297	335	0	0	730	643	38	11	4	33
Blepharoplasty	111	91	4	3	118	48	19	5	0	11
Rhinoplasty	550	277	11	21	300	104	38	64	3	76
Scar Revision	388	988	22	51	407	444	28	124	9	11
Hand Surgery	212	251	9	43	324	300	26	49	2	10
Total	3,278	4,855	82	234	3,034	2,497	397	347	26	574

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

Table 13B: Gynaecology (2014)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Dilation & Curettage	765	595	208	175	2,116	774	19	94	39	211
Tubal Ligation	478	636	365	151	1,694	750	141	95	27	135
Hysterectomy (Vaginal/ Abdominal)	1,116	759	322	171	2,413	1,657	150	230	31	132
Vaginal Repair	210	351	60	48	580	280	35	78	5	33
Tuboplasty	29	10	6	2	19	16	0	2	1	1
Laparoscopic Procedures	208	103	60	43	534	463	20	24	7	20
Hysteroscopic Procedures	574	525	255	133	1,254	912	119	92	32	218
Total	3,379	2,978	1,276	723	8,610	4,853	484	614	144	750

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

Table 13C: Ophthalmology (2014)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cataract Removal	11,352	8,242	2,022	6,142	29,617	25,629	1,213	2,961	393	798
Cornea Transplant	363	454	0	0	1,115	292	0	0	0	0
Cornea—Pterygium	78	94	0	3	370	440	11	19	2	0
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	206	182	26	22	888	366	51	306	0	0
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	758	811	154	84	1,719	2,009	36	848	0	0
Lacrimal Duct	128	352	18	0	488	449	13	63	0	0
Strabismus	542	305	39	0	1,196	654	23	208	0	0
Operations on Eyelids	280	336	40	44	1,013	807	72	42	0	0
Total	13,709	10,777	2,299	6,294	36,407	30,646	1,419	4,446	394	798

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding. • The procedure data reported generally includes only those procedures performed in public facilities. A large number of ophthalmological surgeries are performed in private facilities. The distribution of surgeries between public and private facilities varies significantly among provinces. There are also differences among provinces regarding payment or reimbursement for ophthalmological surgery at a private facility.

Table 13D: Otolaryngology (2014)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Myringotomy	396	494	228	117	1,543	885	173	209	17	0
Tympanoplasty	275	192	67	41	556	263	195	78	8	0
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	477	990	59	128	1,383	510	57	157	0	0
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	1,021	1,777	414	210	5,040	889	199	249	54	0
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	1,448	320	76	43	778	564	88	131	6	0
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	1,620	539	172	144	2,329	838	211	243	23	0
Total	5,238	4,312	1,017	683	11,628	3,949	923	1,067	108	0

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

Table 13E: General surgery (2014)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Hernia/Hydrocele	2,363	3,600	417	254	3,300	2,425	276	1,971	40	0
Cholecystectomy	957	1,670	451	219	2,528	3,763	314	1,047	49	0
Colonoscopy	4,994	2,932	725	2,192	4,595	22,486	194	1,539	694	0
Intestinal Operations	3,179	2,813	1,034	619	9,841	5,507	190	1,033	164	0
Haemorrhoidectomy	827	170	134	79	914	727	41	436	4	0
Breast Biopsy	11	5	1	1	20	33	2	14	0	0
Mastectomy	331	207	56	26	922	516	48	98	30	0
Bronchus and Lung	0	58	13	0	557	136	25	0	0	0
Aneurysm Surgery	0	29	1	0	0	155	32	0	0	0
Varicose Veins	154	289	55	25	276	189	32	0	0	0
Total	12,816	11,775	2,887	3,413	22,954	35,937	1,151	6,137	980	0

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

Table 13F: Neurosurgery (2014)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Peripheral Nerve	104	353	64	0	293	0	0	26	0	0
Disc Surgery/ Laminectomy	1,739	520	132	0	1,046	110	0	97	0	0
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	593	540	63	0	1,015	0	0	192	0	0
Aneurysm Surgery	6	5	2	0	14	63	0	4	0	0
Carotid endarterectomy	12	10	12	0	38	0	0	21	0	0
Total	2,453	1,429	273	0	2,406	173	0	340	0	0

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

Table 13G: Orthopaedic surgery (2014)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Meniscectomy/Arthroscopy	1,699	601	110	703	1,458	1,198	113	261	15	24
Removal of Pins	889	554	140	144	2,455	1,173	169	561	9	32
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	17,474	8,120	1,651	7,594	31,859	11,108	2,083	6,188	572	984
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal, Metatarsophalangeal)	1,040	385	78	30	1,508	403	143	270	4	0
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	322	66	14	134	596	169	38	102	6	8
Digit Neuroma	2,430	285	133	369	2,087	1,539	526	808	0	0
Rotator Cuff Repair	1,514	450	78	525	1,430	757	61	628	10	68
Ostectomy (All Types)	1,023	346	108	85	2,890	1,472	162	539	13	5
Routine Spinal Instability	760	295	464	0	1,774	973	485	0	0	69
Total	27,150	11,102	2,777	9,584	46,056	18,791	3,780	9,356	629	1,190

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

Table 13H: Cardiovascular surgery (2014)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Coronary Artery Bypass	94	40	0	25	158	268	0	0	0	14
Valves & Septa of the Heart	42	53	0	22	126	227	0	0	0	6
Aneurysm Surgery	3	2	0	0	4	1	1	0	0	0
Carotid Endarterectomy	15	5	0	2	19	11	8	2	0	1
Pacemaker Operations	158	88	0	0	253	100	33	0	0	0
Total	312	188	0	49	560	607	42	3	0	20

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

Table 13I: Urology (2014)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Non-radical Prostatectomy	503	175	16	95	317	439	39	12	0	2
Radical Prostatectomy	128	68	10	29	323	146	8	24	0	13
Transurethral Resection—Bladder	327	126	14	95	954	430	102	84	0	54
Radical Cystectomy	18	12	0	2	55	19	4	8	0	1
Cystoscopy	2,520	953	160	199	7,576	4,630	713	4,094	547	937
Hernia/Hydrocele	938	1,071	0	80	1,909	1,141	205	338	0	112
Bladder Fulguration	513	132	0	0	1,847	783	168	137	0	60
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	8	42	0	3	23	49	1	8	0	5
Total	4,956	2,580	199	502	13,003	7,637	1,240	4,706	547	1,184

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

Table 13J: Internal medicine (2014)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Colonoscopy	10,116	14,992	1,658	2,154	11,253	33,799	491	674	0	4,121
Angiography /Angioplasty	824	1,025	476	1,154	902	1,559	270	81	0	0
Bronchoscopy	47	255	45	85	592	117	72	52	0	18
Gastroscopy	102	317	81	106	464	1,859	133	135	0	20
Total	11,089	16,589	2,259	3,499	13,212	37,333	966	942	0	4,158

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

Table 13K: Radiation oncology (2014)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Radiotherapy	66	57	8	0	208	164	30	33	0	6

Note: All data regarding oncology refer only to procedures done in hospitals. Most cancer patients are treated in cancer agencies. Therefore, the oncology data must be regarded as incomplete.

Table 13L: Medical oncology (2014)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Chemotherapy	185	111	0	35	355	381	30	29	7	17

Note: All data regarding oncology refer only to procedures done in hospitals. Most cancer patients are treated in cancer agencies. Therefore, the oncology data must be regarded as incomplete.

Table 14: Estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist (2014)—procedures per 100,000 population

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Plastic Surgery	72	121	7	18	22	31	53	37	18	109
Gynaecology	74	74	115	57	64	60	64	65	99	142
Ophthalmology	299	268	207	498	269	376	188	473	272	152
Otolaryngology	114	107	92	54	86	48	122	113	74	0
General Surgery	280	293	261	270	170	441	152	652	675	0
Neurosurgery	54	35	25	0	18	2	0	36	0	0
Orthopaedic Surgery	593	276	251	758	340	230	500	995	433	226
Cardiovascular Surgery	7	5	0	4	4	7	6	0	0	4
Urology	108	64	18	40	96	94	164	500	377	225
Internal Medicine	242	412	204	277	98	458	128	100	0	789
Radiation Oncology	1	1	1	0	2	2	4	4	0	1
Medical Oncology	4	3	0	3	3	5	4	3	5	3

Note: All data regarding oncology refer only to procedures done in hospitals. Most cancer patients are treated in cancer agencies. Therefore, the oncology data must be regarded as incomplete.

Table 15: Comparison of estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist, by selected specialties, 2013 and 2014

Procedure	British Columbia			Alberta			Saskatchewan			Manitoba			Ontario		
	2014	2013	% chg	2014	2013	% chg	2014	2013	% chg	2014	2013	% chg	2014	2013	% chg
Plastic Surgery	3,278	3,561	-8%	4,855	3,840	26%	82	1,804	-95%	234	84	177%	2,497	3,412	-27%
Gynaecology	3,379	3,418	-1%	2,978	3,477	-14%	1,276	1,205	6%	723	926	-22%	4,853	9,426	-49%
Ophthalmology	13,709	17,086	-20%	10,777	11,315	-5%	2,299	3,476	-34%	6,294	12,257	-49%	30,646	28,460	8%
Otolaryngology	5,238	5,342	-2%	4,312	2,660	62%	1,017	—	—	683	815	-16%	3,949	10,949	-64%
General Surgery	12,816	12,256	5%	11,775	8,733	35%	2,887	7,835	-63%	3,413	8,324	-59%	35,937	25,978	38%
Neurosurgery	2,453	1,106	122%	1,429	1,013	41%	273	394	-31%	—	—	—	173	2,881	-94%
Orthopaedic Surgery	27,150	18,092	50%	11,102	9,982	11%	2,777	7,991	-65%	9,584	5,128	87%	18,791	43,676	-57%
Cardiovascular Surgery	312	446	-30%	188	29	554%	—	47	—	49	—	—	607	431	41%
Urology	4,956	6,819	-27%	2,580	2,525	2%	199	1,080	-82%	502	1,202	-58%	7,637	15,776	-52%
Internal Medicine	11,089	10,141	9%	16,589	6,823	143%	2,259	2,576	-12%	3,499	3,099	13%	37,333	13,890	169%
Radiation Oncology	66	34	94%	57	55	3%	8	10	-20%	—	8	—	164	140	17%
Medical Oncology	185	124	49%	111	176	-37%	—	—	—	35	—	—	381	606	-37%
Residual	59,559	52,214	14%	52,452	39,757	32%	10,020	19,942	-50%	19,533	25,422	-23%	86,447	113,992	-24%
Total	144,189	130,638	10%	119,204	90,386	32%	23,098	46,357	-50%	44,549	57,265	-22%	229,415	269,617	-15%

Notes: Percentage changes are calculated from exact weighted medians, which have been rounded for inclusion in the table. * All data regarding oncology refer only to procedures done in hospitals. Most cancer patients are treated in cancer agencies. Therefore, the oncology data must be regarded as incomplete.

Table 15, continued: Comparison of Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist, by Selected Specialties, 2013 and 2014

Procedure	Quebec			New Brunswick			Nova Scotia			Prince Edward Island			Newfoundland		
	2014	2013	% chg	2014	2013	% chg	2014	2013	% chg	2014	2013	% chg	2014	2013	% chg
Plastic Surgery	2,497	1,955	28%	397	775	-49%	347	556	-38%	26	—	—	574	130	343%
Gynaecology	4,853	5,508	-12%	484	822	-41%	614	685	-10%	144	—	—	750	977	-23%
Ophthalmology	30,646	30,184	2%	1,419	1,280	11%	4,446	8,223	-46%	394	902	-56%	798	895	-11%
Otolaryngology	3,949	5,465	-28%	923	726	27%	1,067	1,091	-2%	108	129	-17%	—	304	—
General Surgery	35,937	29,867	20%	1,151	1,489	-23%	6,137	3,242	89%	980	461	113%	—	2,565	—
Neurosurgery	173	1,112	-84%	—	—	—	340	68	396%	—	—	—	—	48	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	18,791	21,979	-15%	3,780	4,577	-17%	9,356	7,639	22%	629	711	-11%	1,190	2,366	-50%
Cardiovascular Surgery	607	239	154%	42	34	22%	3	60	-95%	—	—	—	20	—	—
Urology	7,637	17,145	-55%	1,240	1,545	-20%	4,706	946	397%	547	400	37%	1,184	1,655	-29%
Internal Medicine	37,333	44,503	-16%	966	538	80%	942	1,540	-39%	—	348	—	4,158	—	—
Radiation Oncology	164	156	5%	30	8	251%	33	46	-28%	—	—	—	6	3	94%
Medical Oncology	381	353	8%	30	35	-16%	29	80	-64%	7	4	—	17	28	-40%
Residual	86,447	89,714	-4%	8,104	8,725	-7%	21,775	17,943	21%	2,141	1,998	7%	14,235	9,072	57%
Total	229,415	248,182	-8%	18,565	20,556	-10%	49,795	42,122	18%	4,976	4,953	0%	22,932	18,044	27%

Notes: Percentage changes are calculated from exact weighted medians, which have been rounded for inclusion in the table. * • All data regarding oncology refer only to procedures done in hospitals. Most cancer patients are treated in cancer agencies. Therefore, the oncology data must be regarded as incomplete.

Table 16A: Acute inpatient procedures, 2012–2013

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	NB	NS	PE	NL
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	15,128	12,776	4,593	4,282	46,542	2,882	3,705	582	1,706
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal/Metatarsophalangeal)	473	506	135	87	900	96	69	13	43
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	79	114	11	28	137	22	6	1	5
Meniscectomy/Arthroscopy	156	202	44	66	418	36	40	2	30
Ostectomy	1,144	1,315	227	345	3,214	235	354	30	107
Removal of Pins	1,043	1,110	244	247	2,670	194	246	28	82
Rotator Cuff Repair	780	898	150	213	1,987	70	217	14	74
Routine Spinal Instability	1,045	1,462	670	466	3,500	573	282	0	198
Bladder Fulguration	1,395	1,112	347	260	5,344	386	503	56	311
Cystoscopy	2,692	2,295	501	236	8,137	592	1,051	67	709
Non-radical Prostatectomy	1,406	674	47	36	1,776	153	49	15	7
Radical Cystectomy	213	159	54	32	567	27	58	2	19
Radical Prostatectomy	1,108	710	170	189	2,796	138	206	13	114
Transurethral Resection—Bladder	983	1,312	207	220	4,697	270	254	72	434
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	55	79	16	12	193	5	21	6	6
Cataract Removal	59	260	34	98	96	18	58	2	6
Cornea Transplant	35	182	63	15	44	0	11	0	0
Cornea—Pterygium	0	4	2	0	5	0	5	0	0
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	69	306	91	51	159	5	52	1	4
Lacrimal Duct Surgery	34	72	14	10	53	14	5	0	9
Operations on Eyelids	119	206	46	60	366	26	66	4	12
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	366	3,122	334	1,110	1,291	2	248	1	18
Strabismus Surgery	25	14	4	5	116	0	6	0	1
Myringotomy	225	307	54	125	903	108	95	26	53
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	514	475	17	409	1,028	81	154	0	119
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	1,718	1,926	468	476	7,569	420	476	23	396
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	928	1,567	406	572	3,021	370	375	107	371
Tympanoplasty	82	79	2	8	319	43	150	2	27
Radiotherapy	389	808	225	56	5,232	428	376	80	107
Chemotherapy	2,441	2,424	946	720	11,454	907	927	75	874
Breast Biopsy	91	54	9	18	225	25	13	2	15
Bronchus and Lung	1,194	950	266	450	4,045	360	358	0	127
Cholecystectomy	3,326	4,153	1,257	1,531	7,313	995	1,316	254	618

Table 16A, continued: Acute inpatient procedures, 2012–2013

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	NB	NS	PE	NL
Haemorrhoidectomy	80	71	57	51	204	18	29	1	14
Intestinal Operations	8,805	6,447	2,428	2,465	25,365	1,950	2,468	280	1,548
Mastectomy	1,841	1,924	519	386	3,241	246	432	99	307
Varicose Veins	54	54	26	75	45	5	14	0	16
Disk Surgery/Laminectomy	1,383	1,004	390	141	4,612	295	239	0	268
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	3,788	3,481	1,068	891	11,537	501	828	1	448
Blepharoplasty	7	10	3	8	36	0	3	0	1
Mammoplasty	434	1,062	77	313	1,477	195	145	34	285
Scar Revision	834	1,488	181	302	1,550	111	231	9	91
Coronary Artery Bypass	2,456	1,394	623	637	8,221	534	678	0	355
Pacemaker Operations	2,574	1,800	852	782	6,668	829	582	96	239
Valves & Septa of the Heart	2,164	1,849	397	560	6,568	305	588	0	155
Angiography/Angioplasty	5,886	3,766	2,267	1,596	23,039	1,347	1,912	2	768
Bronchoscopy	871	1,527	234	249	6,720	195	397	18	217
Gastroscopy	557	556	214	131	2,289	206	239	13	92
Dilation and Curettage	348	255	60	100	609	25	22	8	28
Hysterectomy	4,757	4,926	1,437	1,444	15,079	1,197	1,494	204	856
Hysteroscopic Procedures	218	170	55	24	204	19	18	8	32
Laparoscopic Procedures	347	232	132	66	1,283	46	87	13	50
Tubal Ligation	959	2,011	725	657	4,535	379	349	70	253
Tuboplasty	37	32	13	7	61	1	6	1	3
Vaginal Repair	642	1,135	223	352	1,708	226	455	20	193
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	390	284	13	159	690	77	113	2	72
Hernia/Hydrocele	3,966	3,897	1,523	1,637	19,532	1,038	1,310	153	557
Carotid Endarterectomy	702	280	97	207	1,164	145	123	0	53
Hand Surgery/Digit Neuroma	268	363	97	121	646	32	50	10	38
Neurolysis/Peripheral Nerve	341	364	89	136	2,296	125	87	3	34
Colonoscopy	3,403	2,771	1,438	965	9,406	726	748	88	597
Aneurysm Surgery	344	216	47	92	814	64	59	0	12
Residual	112,902	111,518	28,817	32,002	322,790	21,192	29,013	2,408	15,835
Total	200,673	196,520	55,756	58,989	608,506	41,510	54,471	5,019	30,019

Note: Information is not available in this format for Quebec

Sources: Canadian Institute for Health Information, All Procedures Performed, by Province and CCI code, 2012-13 and Fiscal 2009/10 CCI to CCP Conversion Tables

Table 16B: Same day procedures, 2012–2013

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	NB	NS	PE	NL
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	7,588	4,818	2,563	3,169	28,762	1,284	1,245	461	427
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal/Metatarsophalangeal)	1,029	495	204	174	2,367	151	201	11	75
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	339	318	70	127	1,272	103	96	30	30
Meniscectomy/Arthroscopy	3,526	2,637	671	696	5,898	498	372	65	267
Ostectomy	1,072	684	242	454	3,047	292	347	54	74
Removal of Pins	2,808	1,921	665	501	5,309	391	448	81	192
Rotator Cuff Repair	1,188	973	258	302	3,324	194	449	33	219
Routine Spinal Instability	23	1	0	6	48	0	1	0	1
Bladder Fulguration	3,055	1,179	879	1,166	15,997	534	922	87	470
Cystoscopy	30,066	11,866	7,822	2,714	123,176	2,780	6,553	682	5,057
Non-radical Prostatectomy	775	237	156	189	1,517	120	5	1	1
Transurethral Resection—Bladder	3,267	870	511	485	7,711	484	624	27	123
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	51	195	22	25	51	0	14	0	16
Cataract Removal	49,135	35,456	13,107	10,916	128,246	7,405	12,773	1,274	5,181
Cornea Transplant	490	227	4	81	1,071	0	188	0	3
Cornea—Pterygium	582	487	106	20	1,599	67	80	6	40
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	1,269	1,583	244	398	5,616	42	1,171	9	68
Lacrimal Duct Surgery	798	1,005	152	136	2,062	119	176	3	100
Operations on Eyelids	2,121	2,708	335	129	4,022	286	210	32	304
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	9,490	7,424	1,953	1,787	21,054	43	2,793	8	921
Strabismus Surgery	1,385	1,428	249	312	3,772	100	409	16	63
Myringotomy	2,063	2,398	1,643	742	12,467	1,392	1,263	194	901
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	3,698	1,602	672	660	7,624	512	477	75	264
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	348	53	47	77	1,420	6	3	0	2
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	2,865	3,297	1,248	986	14,450	1,107	706	68	361
Tympanoplasty	634	545	267	219	1,746	284	190	24	216
Radiotherapy	412	30	1	21	195	602	6	0	24
Chemotherapy	154	279	109	18	5,138	22	18	16	2
Breast Biopsy	96	32	11	23	288	19	171	10	130
Bronchus and Lung	36	59	8	4	94	4	10	0	3
Cholecystectomy	4,969	4,119	1,351	1,716	20,364	1,334	1,550	111	995
Haemorrhoidectomy	2,609	1,037	1,015	979	7,718	247	407	27	470

Table 16B, continued; 16B: Same day procedures, 2012–2013

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	NB	NS	PE	NL
Intestinal Operations	32,522	11,839	8,321	8,256	102,572	520	7,298	936	5,306
Mastectomy	3,892	1,661	639	951	12,745	746	840	122	456
Varicose Veins	1,092	548	454	244	1,870	177	148	1	46
Disk Surgery/Laminectomy	1,399	122	100	16	826	63	26	0	4
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	64	30	22	17	196	4	5	0	4
Blepharoplasty	313	384	35	9	908	66	10	0	19
Mammoplasty	3,006	1,852	298	442	7,105	663	263	21	148
Scar Revision	510	414	48	139	801	70	148	24	23
Pacemaker Operations	2,116	475	312	196	2,091	35	416	23	305
Angiography/Angioplasty	8,396	334	825	3,403	421	405	187	5	826
Bronchoscopy	760	1,790	99	192	3,546	117	282	22	250
Gastrosocopy	1,211	359	492	329	3,745	83	345	46	248
Dilation and Curettage	6,280	5,368	1,291	1,553	17,727	942	1,194	247	1,435
Hysterectomy	77	9	159	37	608	5	3	0	0
Hysteroscopic Procedures	4,753	4,377	1,376	1,128	9,826	1,015	939	203	1,589
Laparoscopic Procedures	682	480	167	307	2,187	81	118	33	79
Tubal Ligation	1,111	2,126	1,081	655	6,479	537	635	106	447
Tuboplasty	132	33	16	8	88	3	13	5	1
Vaginal Repair	270	167	76	63	915	52	52	15	39
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	2,250	1,312	406	341	5,278	306	413	26	140
Hernia/Hydrocele	10,339	8,324	2,248	2,853	27,337	2,171	2,245	190	1,175
Carotid Endarterectomy	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Hand Surgery/Digit Neuroma	3,458	1,639	866	981	8,383	617	931	84	697
Neurolysis/Peripheral Nerve	1,057	603	265	187	3,733	201	172	20	350
Colonoscopy	66,403	37,776	18,763	20,354	161,791	1,599	16,016	2,731	13,084
Aneurysm Surgery	5	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	2
Residual	151,958	90,417	45,290	40,896	528,413	17,066	39,936	3,909	36,051
Total	441,997	262,403	120,234	112,789	1,347,018	47,967	106,514	12,174	79,724

Note: Information is not available in this format for Quebec

Sources: Canadian Institute for Health Information, All Procedures Performed, by Province and CCI code, 2012-13 and Fiscal 2009/10 CCI to CCP Conversion Tables

Appendix A: Links to Wait Times Data Published by Provincial Government Agencies

Alberta

Alberta Wait Times Reporting web site

<<http://waittimes.alberta.ca/>>

Alberta Health Services Annual Performance Report 2013/14

<<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/about/publications/ahs-pub-pr-2013-14-dashboard.pdf>>.

British Columbia

British Columbia Ministry of Health

<<https://swt.hlth.gov.bc.ca/>>

Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Surgical Care Network

<<http://www.sasksurgery.ca/>>

Saskatchewan Specialist Directory

<<http://specialists.health.gov.sk.ca/>>

Saskatchewan Ministry of Health (diagnostic imaging)

<<http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/diagnostic-imaging-wait-times>>

Saskatchewan Cancer Agency

<www.saskcancer.ca>

Manitoba

Manitoba Ministry of Health

<<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/waittime/>>

Ontario

Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

<<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/waittimes/>>

Cardiac Care Network of Ontario

<<http://www.ccn.on.ca/>>

Cancer Care Ontario

<<http://www.cancercare.on.ca/ocs/wait-times/>>

Quebec

Quebec Ministry of Health and Social Services

<<http://wpp01.msss.gouv.qc.ca/appl/g74web/default.asp>>

New Brunswick

New Brunswick Department of Health

<<http://www1.gnb.ca/0217/surgicalwaittimes/index-e.aspx>>

Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia Department of Health

<<http://gov.ns.ca/health/waittimes/>>

Prince Edward Island

Prince Edward Island Department of Health

<<http://www.healthpei.ca/waittimes>>

Newfoundland & Labrador

Newfoundland & Labrador Department of Health and Community Services

<http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/wait_times/data.html>

Appendix B: Psychiatry Waiting List Survey, 2014 Report

The psychiatry waiting list survey was conducted between January 10 and April 30, 2014. Surveys were sent to all specialists in the psychiatry category of the Canadian Medical Association’s membership rolls who have allowed their names to be provided by Cornerstone List Fulfillment. This year, the overall response rate to the psychiatry survey was 5% (**table B1**). As a result of the low response rate, results should be interpreted with caution.

Table B1: Psychiatry (2014)—summary of responses, 2014

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Mailed	580	346	61	125	1,770	1,039	41	113	9	45	4,129
Number of Responses	35	15	5	3	100	43	2	9	0	3	215
Response Rates	6%	4%	8%	2%	6%	4%	5%	8%	0%	7%	5%

The treatments identified in the following tables represent a cross-section of common treatments carried out by psychiatrists. The list of treatments was developed in consultation with the Canadian Psychiatric Association, who also assisted in making adjustments to the standard survey form to reflect differences between psychiatric practices and practices in the other specialties presented in this document.

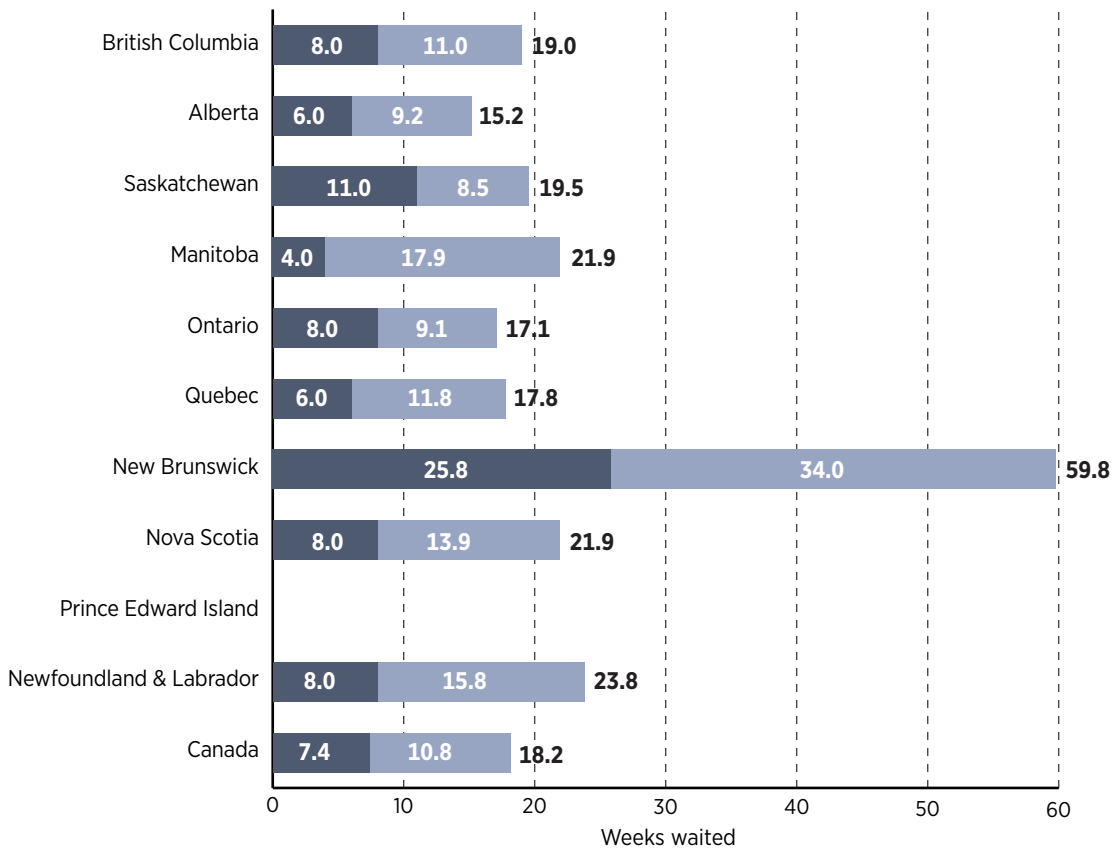
Unlike other specialties discussed in *Waiting Your Turn* in which the waiting times are weighted by the total number of such procedures that have been done by all physicians, the overall median for psychiatry is presented as an unweighted measure (see the section, Method, p. 10–12, for a clear description of the Fraser Institute’s weighting procedures). All of the median measures that make up the final specialty median are given equal weight. This alteration to the standard methodology results from a lack of data counting the number of patients treated by psychiatrists, separated by treatment. We hope, in the coming years, to develop a weighting system for psychiatric treatments to allow a weighted average for this specialty to be calculated. In the current estimates, national medians are developed through a weighting system that bases the weight of each provincial median on the number of specialists contacted in that province.

Findings

Total wait times

Across the provinces, the total wait time (between referral by a general practitioner and the time that the required elective treatment begins) for psychiatry has fallen from 20.3 weeks in 2013 to 18.2 weeks in 2014 (graph B1). The shortest waiting times are in Alberta (15.2 weeks), Ontario (17.1 weeks), and Quebec (17.8 weeks). The longest total waits are in New Brunswick (59.8 weeks), Newfoundland & Labrador (23.8 weeks), and Nova Scotia (21.9 weeks).

Graph B1: Weeks waited from referral by GP to treatment, by province, 2014



■ Wait from GP to specialist (elective) ■ Wait from specialist to treatment

Note: Totals may not equal the sum of subtotals due to rounding.

Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2014.

Wait time by segment and specialty

The total wait time for psychiatric treatment can be examined in two consecutive segments:

- 1 the first segment occurs from referral by a general practitioner to consultation with a psychiatrist;
- 2 the second segment occurs from the consultation with a psychiatrist to the point at which treatment begins.

Table B2 indicates the number of weeks that patients wait for initial appointments with psychiatrists after referral from their general practitioners or from other specialists. The waiting time to see a psychiatrist on an urgent basis across the provinces is 2.1 weeks, ranging from 1.3 week in Quebec to 24.0 weeks in New Brunswick. The waiting time for referrals on an elective basis across the provinces is 7.4 weeks. The provinces with the longest wait times for elective referrals are New Brunswick (25.8 weeks) and Saskatchewan (11.0 weeks). On the other hand, Manitoba (4.0 weeks), Alberta, and Quebec (6.0 weeks each) are the provinces with the shortest wait times for elective referrals.

Table B2: Psychiatry (2014)—median patient wait to see a specialist after referral from a GP

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Urgent	2.0	3.5	2.5	1.5	2.0	1.3	24.0	2.0	—	2.0	2.1
Elective	8.0	6.0	11.0	4.0	8.0	6.0	25.8	8.0	—	8.0	7.4

Table B3 summarizes the waiting time for certain elective psychiatric treatments after an appointment with a specialist. The longest waiting times for this second segment of the total waiting time are in New Brunswick (34.0 weeks), Manitoba (17.9 weeks) and Newfoundland & Labrador (15.8 weeks). The shortest waits are in Saskatchewan (8.5 weeks), Ontario (9.1 weeks), and Alberta (9.2 weeks). Among the treatments, patients wait longest for access to a housing program or a sleep disorders program (16.2 weeks, each), while wait times are shortest for pharmacotherapy (4.0 weeks), and admission to a day program (8.7 weeks).

Table B4 presents a frequency distribution of the survey responses by province. The wait for the majority of treatments is less than 13 weeks in all provinces except New Brunswick and Newfoundland & Labrador. Saskatchewan performs the highest proportion of treatments within 13 weeks (75.8%), while Alberta performs the highest proportion of treatments within 8 weeks (51.4%). Waits of 26 weeks or more are least frequent in Saskatchewan (3.0%), and most frequent in New Brunswick (62.5%).

Table B3: Psychiatry (2014)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Initiate a course of brief psychotherapy	5.0	4.0	10.0	14.0	8.0	12.0	28.0	7.0	—	16.0	8.7
Initiate a course of long-term psychotherapy	9.0	6.0	16.0	29.0	12.0	12.0	38.0	14.0	—	26.0	12.1
Initiate a course of pharmacotherapy	3.0	4.0	6.5	7.0	4.0	3.0	14.0	7.0	—	8.0	4.0
Initiate a course of couple/marital therapy	6.0	4.5	7.5	29.0	8.0	10.0	—	27.0	—	20.0	9.2
Initiate cognitive behaviour therapy	5.5	6.0	12.0	2.0	9.8	12.0	26.0	8.0	—	32.0	9.6
Access a day program	15.0	6.0	3.0	16.0	8.0	4.0	36.0	24.0	—	6.5	8.7
Access an eating disorders program	12.0	12.0	10.0	13.0	12.0	19.0	—	12.0	—	—	13.8
Access a housing program	32.0	12.0	6.5	26.0	12.0	14.0	78.0	6.0	—	13.5	16.2
Access an evening program	14.0	10.0	6.5	14.5	8.0	12.0	14.0	6.0	—	—	10.2
Access a sleep disorders program	14.0	30.0	10.0	40.0	6.0	24.0	52.0	36.0	—	—	16.2
Access assertive community treatment or similar program	6.0	7.0	6.0	6.0	12.0	8.0	20.0	6.0	—	4.5	9.3
Unweighted Median	11.0	9.2	8.5	17.9	9.1	11.8	34.0	13.9		15.8	10.8

Table B4: Psychiatry (2014)—frequency distribution of survey waiting times (specialist to treatment), by province, 2014

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
0–3.99 Weeks	23%	21%	15%	21%	25%	22%	0%	15%	—	14%
4–7.99 Weeks	21%	30%	27%	21%	19%	19%	13%	25%	—	5%
8–12.99 Weeks	21%	20%	33%	16%	26%	22%	0%	23%	—	29%
13–25.99 Weeks	19%	17%	21%	5%	15%	13%	25%	25%	—	24%
26–51.99 Weeks	8%	4%	3%	26%	9%	12%	38%	10%	—	14%
1 year plus	9%	8%	0%	11%	7%	10%	25%	3%	—	14%

Note: Columns do not necessarily sum to 100 due to rounding.

Table B5 compares the 2013 and 2014 waiting times for treatment. This year’s study indicates an overall decrease in the waiting time between consultation with a specialist and elective treatment in four provinces. However, five provinces experienced an increase: British Columbia (20%), Manitoba (49%), Quebec (19%), New Brunswick (24%), and Nova Scotia (34%).

Table B5: Psychiatry (2014)—comparison of median weeks waited to receive treatment after appointment with specialist, by province, 2013 and 2014

	2014	2013	% change
British Columbia	11.0	9.2	20%
Alberta	9.2	15.2	-39%
Saskatchewan	8.5	21.4	-60%
Manitoba	17.9	12.0	49%
Ontario	9.1	12.0	-24%
Quebec	11.8	10.0	19%
New Brunswick	34.0	27.5	24%
Nova Scotia	13.9	10.4	34%
Prince Edward Island	—	—	—
Newfoundland & Labrador	15.8	28.6	-45%

Note: Percentage changes are calculated from exact weighted medians. The exact weighted medians have been rounded to one decimal place for inclusion in the table.

Comparison between clinically reasonable and actual wait times

Physicians responding to the survey are also asked to provide a clinically reasonable waiting time for the various treatments. Specialists generally indicate a period of time substantially shorter than the median number of weeks patients actually wait for treatment (see tables B5 and B6). **Table B6** summarizes the reasonable waiting times for psychiatric treatments and is based on the same methodology used to create table B3. **Table B7** summarizes the differences between the median reasonable and actual waiting times across the provinces for treatment after an appointment with a specialist, and shows that in 95% of cases, the actual waiting time for treatment (table B3) is greater than the clinically reasonable median waiting time (table B6). Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan come closest to meeting the standard of “reasonable”, in that the actual overall median specialist-to-treatment waits only exceed the corresponding “reasonable” values by 77% and 104%, respectively, a smaller gap than in the other provinces. These two provinces, however, achieve their performance by different means. The “reasonable” wait time in Nova Scotia is the longest in Canada, while the “reasonable” wait time in Saskatchewan is close to the national average.

Table B6: Psychiatry (2014)—Median reasonable patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Initiate a course of brief psychotherapy	2.0	3.8	6.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	7.0	—	4.0	3.8
Initiate a course of long-term psychotherapy	5.5	7.0	6.0	3.5	6.0	7.0	9.0	24.0	—	16.0	6.8
Initiate a course of pharmacotherapy	2.0	2.0	4.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.5	3.5	—	2.0	2.1
Initiate a course of couple/marital therapy	3.0	4.0	4.0	3.5	4.0	4.0	2.0	6.0	—	6.0	3.9
Initiate cognitive behaviour therapy	2.0	4.0	4.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	7.0	—	8.0	3.8
Access a day program	2.0	3.0	2.0	3.0	4.0	2.0	4.0	10.5	—	4.0	3.2
Access an eating disorders program	4.0	6.0	4.0	3.5	4.0	4.0	4.0	5.5	—	3.0	4.2
Access a housing program	7.5	4.0	2.0	5.0	4.0	4.0	7.5	3.5	—	4.0	4.5
Access an evening program	4.0	6.5	5.0	4.5	4.0	7.5	4.0	3.5	—	6.0	5.1
Access a sleep disorders program	4.0	5.0	6.0	3.5	4.0	4.0	4.0	12.0	—	3.0	4.3
Access assertive community treatment or similar program	2.0	2.0	3.0	14.5	4.0	3.0	2.0	4.0	—	2.0	3.6
Unweighted Median	3.5	4.3	4.2	4.4	4.0	4.1	4.2	7.9		5.3	4.1

Finally, patients also prefer earlier treatment. On average, only 4.7% of patients are on waiting lists because they have requested a delay or postponement of their treatment. Conversely, the proportion of patients who would have begun their treatment within the week,¹ if it were available, is 69.5% (Waiting Your Turn, 2014).

Waiting for diagnostic and therapeutic technology

Table B8 displays the median number of weeks patients must wait for access to a computed tomography (CT) or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner, or an electroencephalogram (EEG). Compared to 2013, the national waiting times for CT scans have fallen in 2014. The median wait for a CT scan across the provinces is 4.3 weeks, ranging from a high of 20.0 weeks (New Brunswick), to a low of 1.5 weeks (Newfoundland & Labrador). The median wait for an MRI across the provinces has increased from 9.3 weeks in 2013, to 9.5 weeks this year. Patients in New Brunswick wait the longest

1. The survey asks psychiatrists what percentage of their patients currently waiting for treatment would agree to begin treatment tomorrow if an opening were to arise. However, comments by respondents of previous surveys indicate that at least some respondents answer the question as if it were “a few days.”

Table B7: Psychiatry (2014)—difference between actual and reasonable patient waits for treatment after appointment with specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Initiate a course of brief psychotherapy	150%	7%	67%	367%	100%	200%	600%	0%	—	300%	131%
Initiate a course of long-term psychotherapy	64%	-14%	167%	729%	100%	71%	322%	-42%	—	63%	78%
Initiate a course of pharmacotherapy	50%	100%	63%	250%	100%	50%	833%	100%	—	300%	92%
Initiate a course of couple/marital therapy	100%	13%	88%	729%	100%	150%	—	350%	—	233%	136%
Initiate cognitive behaviour therapy	175%	50%	200%	0%	144%	200%	550%	14%	—	300%	153%
Access a day program	650%	100%	50%	433%	100%	100%	800%	129%	—	63%	167%
Access an eating disorders program	200%	100%	150%	271%	200%	375%	—	118%	—	—	230%
Access a housing program	327%	200%	225%	420%	200%	250%	940%	71%	—	238%	258%
Access an evening program	250%	54%	30%	222%	100%	60%	250%	71%	—	—	99%
Access a sleep disorders program	250%	500%	67%	1043%	50%	500%	1200%	200%	—	—	275%
Access assertive community treatment or similar program	200%	250%	100%	-59%	200%	167%	900%	50%	—	125%	161%
Weighted Median	220%	115%	104%	309%	127%	186%	713%	77%		200%	161%

Table B8: Psychiatry (2014)—waiting for technology: weeks waited to receive selected diagnostic tests in 2012, 2013, and 2014

	CT-Scan			MRI			EEG		
	2014	2013	2012	2014	2013	2012	2014	2013	2012
British Columbia	6.0	6.0	4.0	21.0	16.0	11.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Alberta	4.5	4.6	4.0	8.0	12.0	8.0	3.3	3.7	4.0
Saskatchewan	3.5	14.0	3.0	5.0	20.0	6.0	8.0	8.0	6.0
Manitoba	2.0	2.0	3.5	12.0	7.0	5.0	4.0	4.0	3.5
Ontario	4.0	3.5	4.0	6.0	6.5	8.0	4.0	3.0	4.0
Quebec	4.0	6.0	4.0	9.5	9.0	8.0	4.0	4.0	2.5
New Brunswick	20.0	6.0	7.0	25.0	10.0	10.0	25.0	6.0	5.0
Nova Scotia	2.0	3.5	3.0	6.0	8.5	4.5	3.0	3.5	3.5
Prince Edward Island	—	—	2.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newfoundland	1.5	6.0	3.5	4.5	20.0	25.8	3.0	4.0	2.8
Canada	4.3	4.7	4.0	9.5	9.3	8.4	4.2	3.6	3.6

(25.0 weeks), while patients in Newfoundland & Labrador wait the least amount of time (4.5 weeks). Finally, the median wait for an EEG across the provinces has risen from 3.6 weeks in 2013 to 4.2 weeks this year. Residents of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland & Labrador face the shortest waits for an EEG (3.0 weeks), while residents of New Brunswick wait longest (25.0 weeks).²

Conclusion

The information documented here suggests that patients seeking mental health treatment are likely to be disappointed with their access. With a waiting time of 18.2 weeks from general practitioner referral to elective treatment, and with wait times from meeting with a specialist to elective treatment that are 161% longer than specialists feel is appropriate, it is clear that many patients in need of psychiatric attention are facing the effects of rationing in our health care system.

2. For comparison, the overall Canadian median waiting time for CT scans was 3.8 weeks in the traditional 12 specialties and 4.3 weeks in the psychiatry survey, with a mean absolute difference (the average of absolute differences between the two measures in each province) of 2.8 weeks across nine provinces. The overall Canadian median waiting time for MRIs in the psychiatry survey was 9.5 weeks, compared to 8.7 weeks for the other 12 specialties. The mean absolute difference in this case, again for nine provinces, was 3.9 weeks.

Appendix C: The Fraser Institute National Waiting List Survey questionnaire

General Surgery

Please circle the province in which your office is located:

AB BC MB NB NL NS NT NU ON PE QC SK YT

1. From today, how long (in weeks) would a new patient have to wait for a routine office consultation with you? _____ week(s)

2. Do you restrict the number of patients waiting to see you in any manner? (i.e. Do you accept referrals only at certain times of the year?)

Yes No

3. Over the past 12 months, what percentage of the surgical procedures you performed were done on a day surgery basis? _____ %

4. From today, how long (in weeks) would a new patient have to wait for the following types of elective surgery or diagnostic procedures? What would you consider to be a clinically reasonable waiting time for these types of surgery and procedures?

Surgery or procedure	Number of weeks to wait	Reasonable number of weeks to wait
Hernia repair (all types) / hydrocele		
Cholecystectomy		
Colonoscopy (diagnosis)		
Incision, excision, anastomosis of intestine and other operations on intestine		
Hemorrhoidectomy / other anal surgery		
Breast biopsy		
Mastectomy / segmental resection		
Operations on bronchus and lung		
Incidentally discovered and unruptured aneurysms		
Varicose vein surgery		

5. Has the length of your waiting lists changed since last year at this time?

Increased Decreased Remained the Same

6. If the length of your waiting lists has changed, what are the major reasons for the change? (Check all which may be applicable.)

- Availability of O/R nurses
- Availability of other technical staff
- Availability of beds
- Availability of O/R time
- Change in patient load
- Availability of ancillary investigations or consultations (i.e. MRI, CT scans)
- Other

7. What percentage of your patients currently waiting for surgery are on a waiting list primarily because they requested a delay or postponement? _____ %

8. What percentage of your patients currently waiting for surgery do you think would agree to having their procedure performed tomorrow if an opening arose?
_____ %

9. To the best of your knowledge, what percentage of your patients that are listed on hospital waiting lists might also be listed by other physicians for the same procedure?
_____ %

10. Do you use the following types of diagnostic tests? If so, how long (in weeks) would a new patient have to wait for these tests?

Do you use the diagnostic test?	Yes	No	Infrequently	Number of weeks patients wait
CT Scan				
MRI				
Ultrasound				

11. Approximately what percentage of your patients inquired in the past 12 months about the availability of medical services:

In another province? _____ % Outside of Canada? _____ %

12. Approximately what percentage of your patients received non-emergency medical treatment in the past 12 months:

In another province? _____ % Outside of Canada? _____ %

Thank you very much for your assistance.

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